NEW

AMERICAN HOME STYLE HANDBOOK

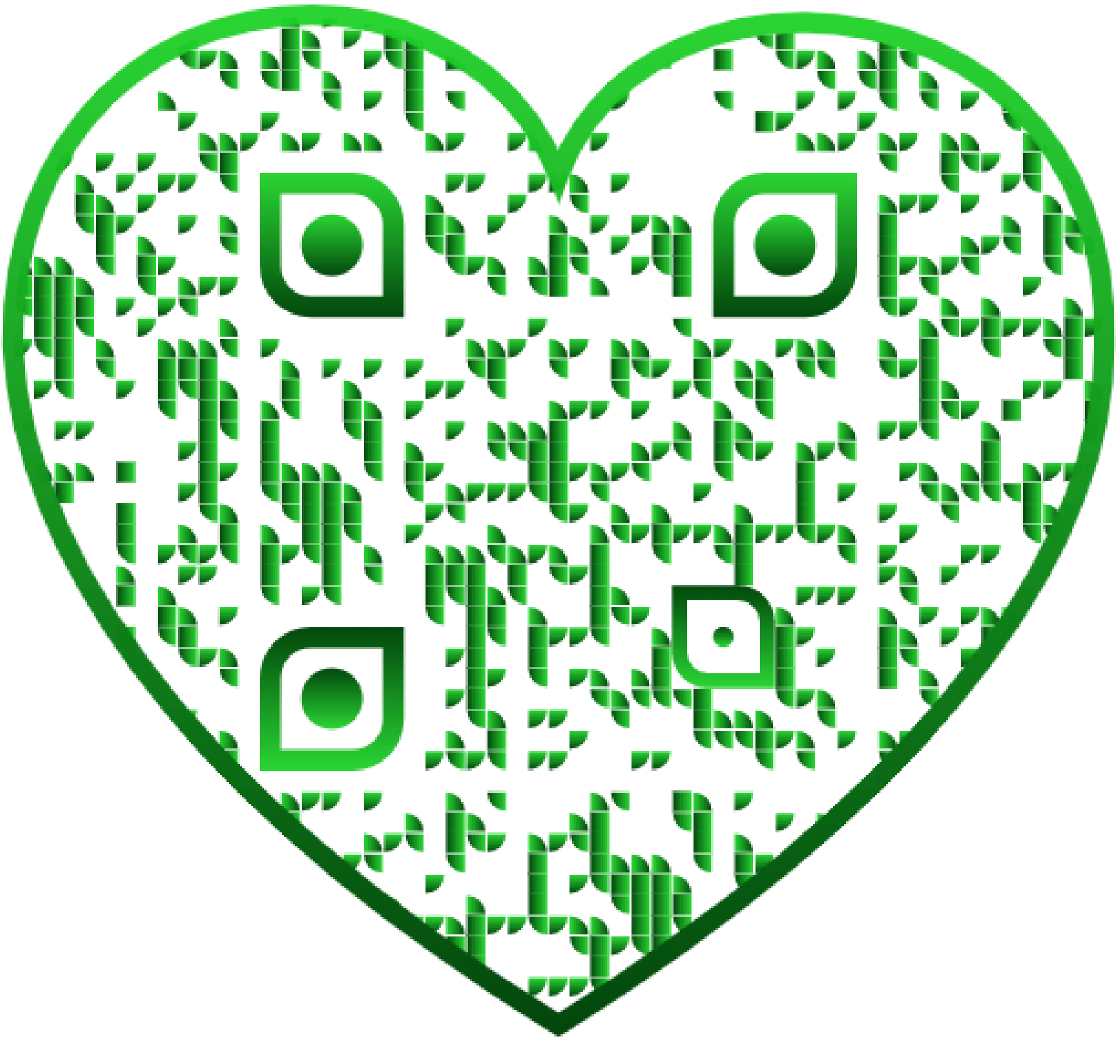
FROM RUSTIC TO REFINED, DISCOVER THE DELIGHTS OF AMERICAN INTERIOR DESIGN

INSIDE
Inspiring homes & expert advice

Digital Edition

FUTURE
FIRST EDITION

HOUSE TOURS • CRAFT PROJECTS • STYLING GUIDES



Welcome

Much like the country itself, American interior design spans the full creative spectrum of style, from rustic, traditional vibes that evoke homesteads and ranches, to understated glamour that bridges tradition and modernisation. In this brand-new publication, we've toured some of our favourite American and American-inspired homes, from a London mews house that nods to the Wild West, to the chic Los Angeles home of an acclaimed Hollywood actor.

Elsewhere, we've delved into various US-inspired trends to highlight the key features, furniture and home pieces you need to channel the look in your own house. We've also spoken to the experts to learn where to find the best antique furniture, and how to style it to keep it looking American chic. And if you're crafty, take a look at our creative projects to add texture and homemade charm to your house.

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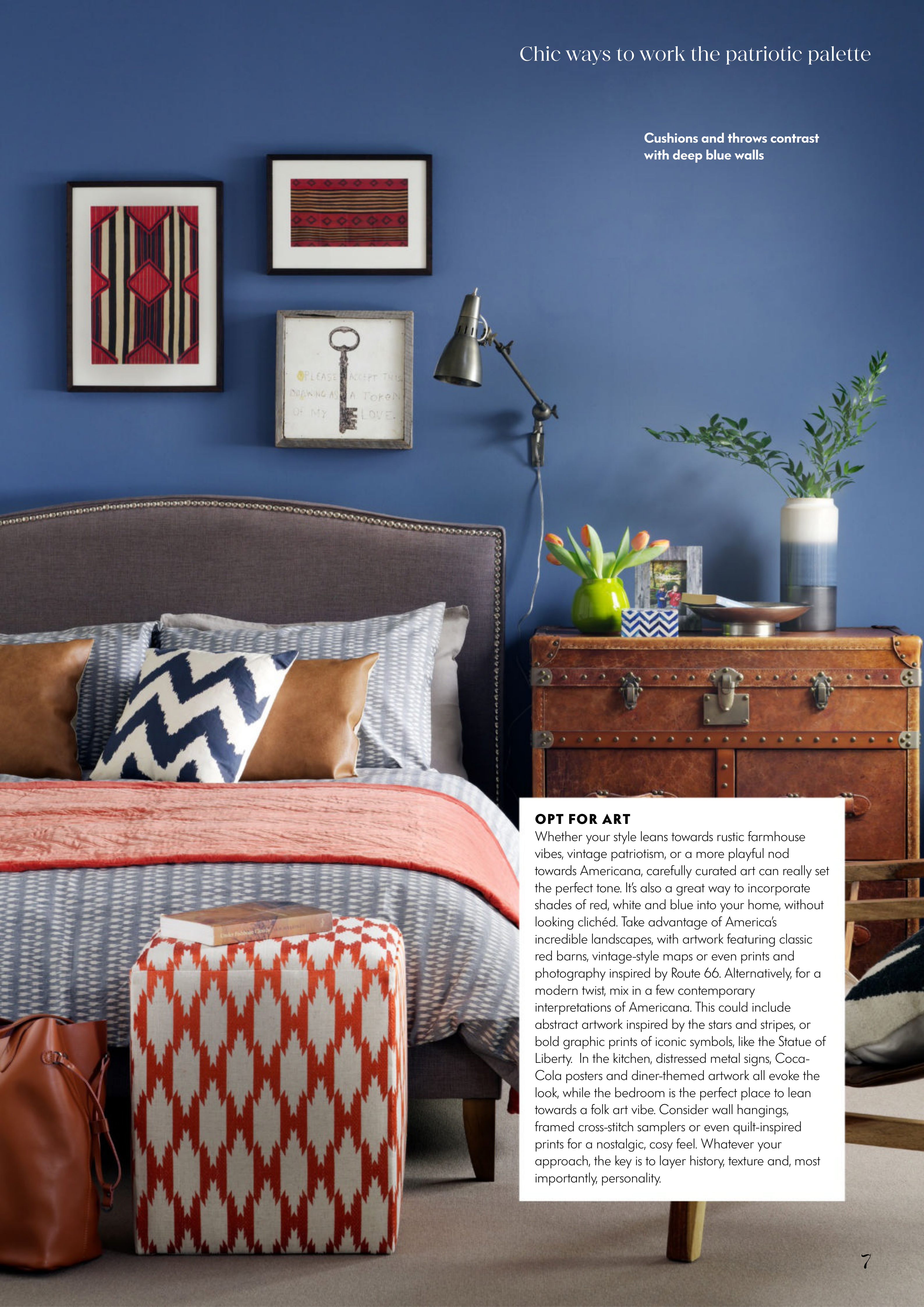
Chic ways to work the patriotic palette

Embrace the Americana aesthetic by effortlessly incorporating red, white and blue into your interior

WORDS SOPHIE BARTON

A key part of the Americana aesthetic is, of course, the signature red, white and blue palette. This might seem daunting at first, but it doesn't mean you need to emblazon your home with the stars and stripes. 'If you're embracing Americana décor, start small with accent pieces,' advises Camilla Lesser, Property Development Manager at Essential Living. 'That could mean vintage signage, retro diner-style bar stools, or an old-school American flag print. These touches bring character and authenticity without overwhelming the space. To stop a red, white and blue scheme from feeling too themed or kitsch, opt for muted or vintage shades. A deep navy, soft off-white, and a faded brick red can create a sophisticated Americana look that feels both timeless and grounded.'

From layering soft furnishings to clever tips and tricks with paint, we'll reveal how to stylishly weave nods of red, white and blue into your décor.



Cushions and throws contrast with deep blue walls

OPT FOR ART

Whether your style leans towards rustic farmhouse vibes, vintage patriotism, or a more playful nod towards Americana, carefully curated art can really set the perfect tone. It's also a great way to incorporate shades of red, white and blue into your home, without looking clichéd. Take advantage of America's incredible landscapes, with artwork featuring classic red barns, vintage-style maps or even prints and photography inspired by Route 66. Alternatively, for a modern twist, mix in a few contemporary interpretations of Americana. This could include abstract artwork inspired by the stars and stripes, or bold graphic prints of iconic symbols, like the Statue of Liberty. In the kitchen, distressed metal signs, Coca-Cola posters and diner-themed artwork all evoke the look, while the bedroom is the perfect place to lean towards a folk art vibe. Consider wall hangings, framed cross-stitch samplers or even quilt-inspired prints for a nostalgic, cosy feel. Whatever your approach, the key is to layer history, texture and, most importantly, personality.

PLAY WITH PAINT

If you ever needed an excuse to go bold with paint, this is it. Try a rich red accent wall, or transform a bland space with a denim blue shade. 'Try using the red, white and blue palette in a more abstract way,' says Camilla. 'Perhaps a navy feature wall, with neutral furniture and a few red accents in vintage prints or decorative objects. It's a clever nod to Americana without being overly literal.'

For maximum impact and a modern twist, try colour drenching. This essentially means using one coat across your woodwork, skirtings, walls and even the ceiling. It works particularly well with darker tones, and is a great way to turn an uninspiring space into a cosy cocoon.

GIVE FURNITURE A FACELIFT

Of course, paint isn't limited to walls and woodwork. If you prefer to maintain a neutral base, try adding pops of colour in unexpected places. How about transforming a vintage style bath into a scarlet showstopper, or coating wardrobes or wooden chairs in shades of red, white or blue? For an easy and inexpensive upgrade, simply add colourful, Americana-inspired drawer handles or door knobs in complementary shades. Thanks to modern chalk paints, such as Frenchic or Annie Sloan, upcycling furniture is now easier than ever, which means there's no need to call in the professionals. If you're painting heavy traffic items, like tables or children's furniture, Frenchic Al Fresco is a great, hard-wearing option. Once dried, you can slick on a layer of Tough Coat, which gives your surfaces that bit of extra protection.

CREATE A FEATURE FLOOR

Don't forget, your floor is also a blank canvas. If you're blessed with wooden flooring, how about painting an Americana-inspired chequerboard pattern, or simply washing your boards blue? This is high impact, relatively low cost, and all you need is a few simple tools (plus a bit of patience). It's also a great way to breathe new life into floorboards that have seen better days. To amplify the impact, consider continuing your anchor colour through onto your skirting too.

If floor paint isn't for you, how about throwing down cosy rugs in shades of red, white and blue? And while your staircase might not rival Scarlett O'Hara's in *Gone With the Wind*, that could become a feature too. Stair runners are a great way to add a splash of colour, and you'll find hundreds of designs ranging from traditional woven patterns to stripes and muted herringbones, bordered with simple reds and blues.

GO SOFT

To dial up the nostalgic, homely Americana vibe, why not up the ante on your soft furnishings? Keep bedrooms cosy with chequered bed linens or block printed cotton quilts, or simply invest in a few soft striped throws. Scatter cushions, curtains and blinds are another effective yet inexpensive way to embrace pops of colour – think everything from subtle star prints to bold candy stripes.

'Layering textures is a great way to soften a bold colour palette,' adds Camilla. 'Think navy velvet, linen in warm whites, and rustic red textiles. These materials help elevate the red, white and blue aesthetic while keeping it inviting and grown-up.'

ACCESSORISE

Whether you opt for a subtle nod or more extravagant gestures, accessories are a flexible, fun way to incorporate a fresh take on the classic Americana hues. Red in particular is a timeless, classic way to elevate a room, while marine stripes and deep blues make a nod to America's maritime heritage. 'Red, white and blue can be a striking combination when used with subtlety and balance,' says Camilla. 'The key is to avoid overloading the space – use one colour as the dominant tone and bring in the others through accessories like cushions, rugs or artwork.'

Illuminate your home with luxuriant lampshades in reds and blues, teamed with classic wooden or heritage brass bases. And if you need an excuse to update your tableware, look no further. From vibrant striped mugs to scarlet stoneware and plates in varied shades of white and blue, your kitchen is the perfect place to add a patriotic punch. If you prefer to stick to classic white porcelain, consider embracing the aesthetic with coloured table cloths, gingham napkins or even red and blue tumblers. Just ensure you avoid overwhelm by keeping enough neutral pieces in your collection.

The Americana edit

Add a patriotic touch to your décor, with these key pieces in stylish shades of red, white and blue

PICK-UP TRUCK A3 ARTWORK

With its gingham frame and pickup truck design, this artwork adds a cute nod to Americana.

COEURETMAMAN.COM
£140

PROCOOK CAST IRON CASSEROLE

Add some ruby red flair to your kitchen with this stylish casserole from ProCook.

PROCOOK
£59

GINGHAM FLOOR CUSHION

This classic gingham floor cushion is a great way to create a cosy reading nook.

HOMESCAPESONLINE.COM
£17.99

POOKY X KILLIAN DAWSON, MILFORD CHECK LAMPSHADE

This geometric lampshade is from Pooky's collection with Anglo-American interior design practice Killian Dawson.

POOKY.COM
£35

RALPH RED ECO WOOL THROW

Made from lambswool, this cherry red throw adds texture and interest.

COUNTRYMOUSE.CO.UK
£79

COSMO RED RUG

This hard-wearing rug is hand-loomed, with a fine kilim weave.

WEAVERGREEN.COM
£235

LARGE RUSTIC WALL STAR

This distressed barn star is ideal for wall mounting in a hallway or living room.

MELODYMAISON.CO.UK
£23.95

ERO TABLE LAMP AND SHADE, ISSEY CHAIR, TINTA STRIPE TABLE

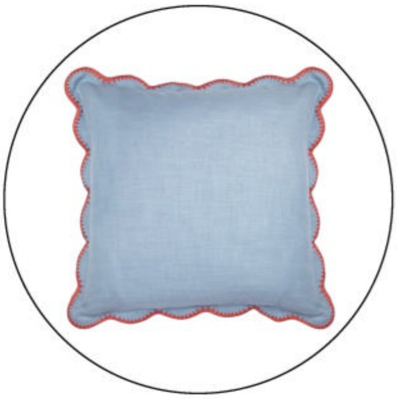
Add a stylish touch to your bedroom with this vibrant coral red chair, in soft velvet.

OLIVER BONAS
TABLE LAMP AND SHADE £125, CHAIR £495, DRESSING TABLE £445

HABITAT BIRCH TABLE AND RUNNER

This birch table adds a fabulous pop of bright red. Up the Americana ante with the Maubec runner.

HABITAT.CO.UK
DINING TABLE £300, RUNNER £12

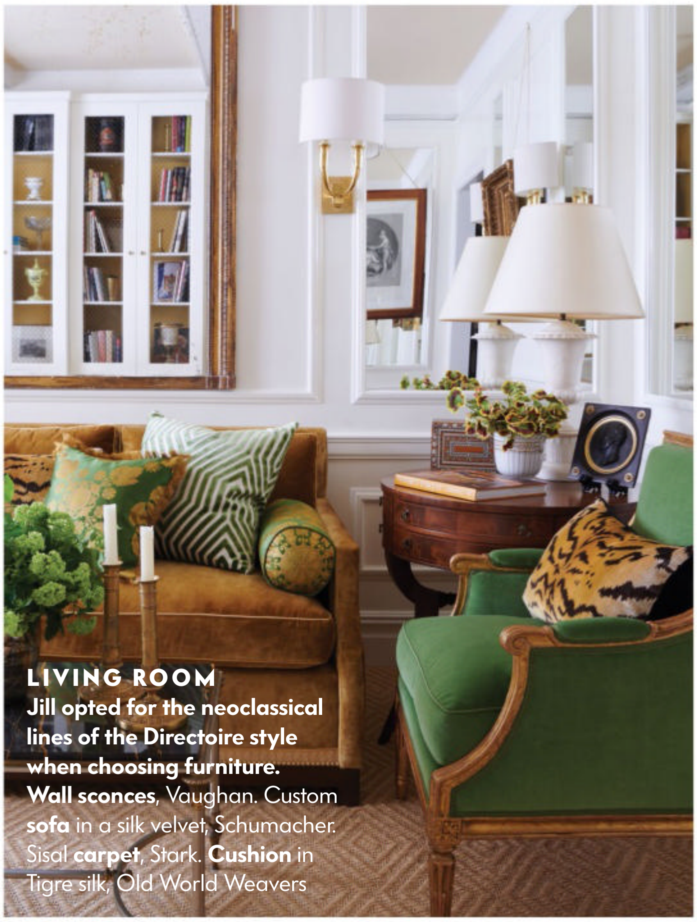


EMBROIDERED SCALLOP CUSHION

Channel a vintage Americana vibe with this pretty powder blue cushion from Marks & Spencer.

M&S
£19.50

PHOTOGRAPHS COEUR ET MAMAN, PROCOOK, HOMESCAPES ONLINE, POOKY, COUNTRYMOUSE, WEAVERGREEN, M&S, MELODY MAISON,OLIVER BONAS, HABITAT

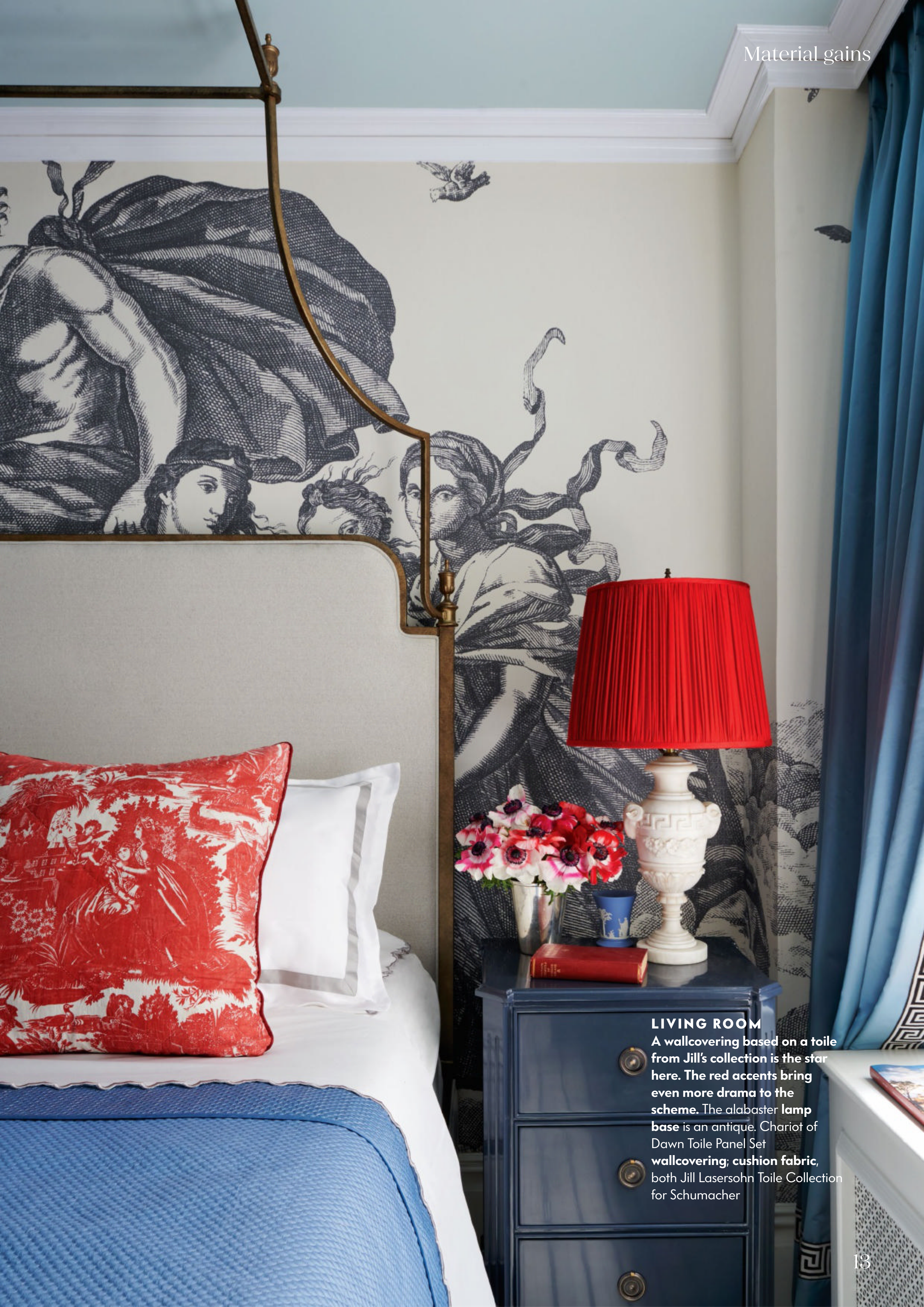


LIVING ROOM
Jill opted for the neoclassical lines of the Directoire style when choosing furniture. **Wall sconces**, Vaughan. Custom **sofa** in a silk velvet, Schumacher. Sisal **carpet**, Stark. **Cushion** in Tigre silk, Old World Weavers

Material gains

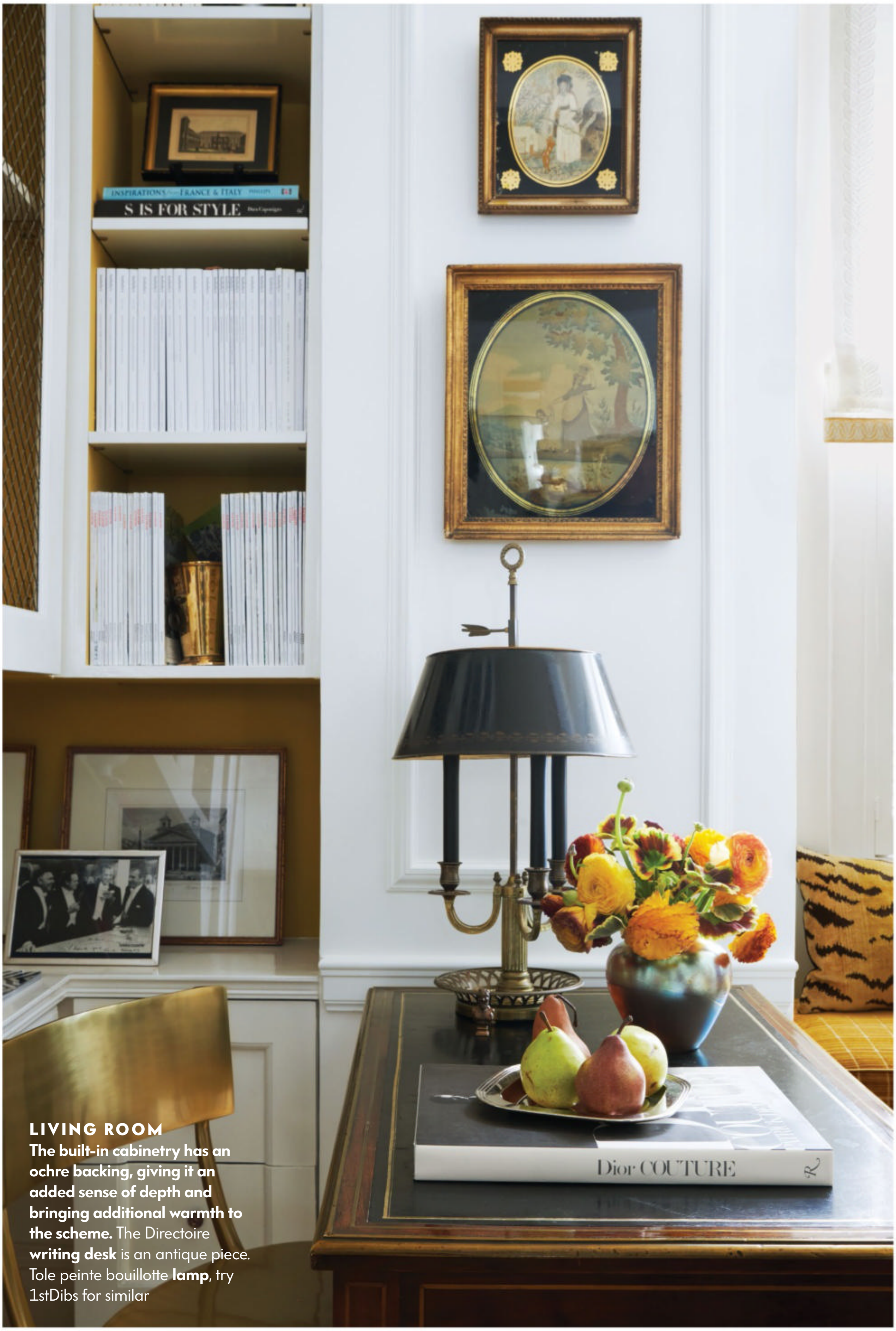
The Manhattan pied-à-terre of textile collector Jill Lasersohn has been transformed with the skillful use of standout fabrics and papers

WORDS JULIET BENNING **STYLING** CAROLYN ENGLEFIELD **PHOTOGRAPHY** MAX KIM-BEE



LIVING ROOM

A wallcovering based on a toile from Jill's collection is the star here. The red accents bring even more drama to the scheme. The alabaster **lamp base** is an antique. Chariot of Dawn Toile Panel Set **wallcovering; cushion fabric**, both Jill Lasersohn Toile Collection for Schumacher



INSPIRATIONS FRANCE & ITALY
S IS FOR STYLE
Dior COUTURE

LIVING ROOM
The built-in cabinetry has an ochre backing, giving it an added sense of depth and bringing additional warmth to the scheme. The Directoire **writing desk** is an antique piece. Tole peinte bouillotte **lamp**, try 1stDibs for similar

For so many years our home has been the backdrop to spilt drinks, popcorn in the sofa and various dogs,' Jill Lasersohn explains. 'But now the kids have left the nest and my husband Jack and I bought this Manhattan apartment, we can finally live like grown-up adults,' she says.

Jill arrived in New York City from the Midwest some 30 years ago and met Jack, a medical venture capitalist, not long after. They made their full-time home in the Hamptons but with their two daughters now grown up and living in the city, the couple decided it was time to invest in a pied-à-terre. 'We were visiting our girls and taking advantage of museums and shows so we wanted somewhere we could stay without having to bring a suitcase – a hotel suite in the city. It's 600 square feet with one bedroom and one bathroom and we refer to it as our little jewel box,' Jill says.

Jill is the owner of one of the largest private European textile collections in the world and her toiles, in particular, have inspired a collection from Schumacher – and several of the designs are beautifully showcased throughout the Upper East Side apartment. 'I began by collecting 18th-century French and English silks and toile de Jouy, getting to know the best dealers in New York, the UK and France. I've gradually worked backwards, slipping into the 17th and 16th centuries, and now I'm extremely proud of my 15th-century pieces,' she elaborates.

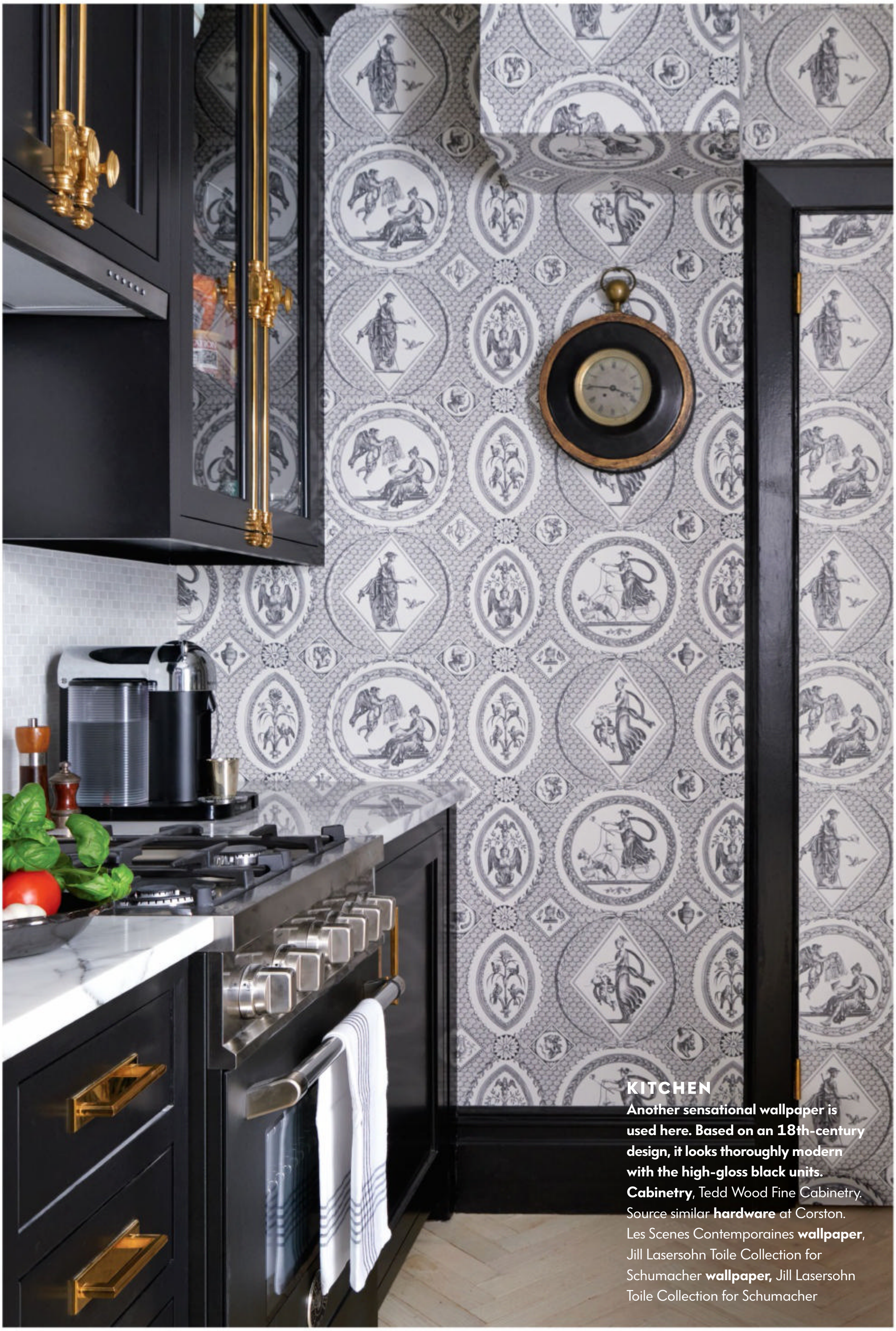
'Day to day, I have to be a botanist so I can recognise certain flowers. I have to know about the dyes used. If I'm looking at an old master I have to know about the sitter and the painter. Every day I go down this huge and magical Alice in Wonderland research hole and I can't wait to wake up each morning and do it again,' Jill enthuses.

'We bought the apartment off a lovely elderly couple and although it was well-appointed it was in a time warp. What I thought would be a quick, easy cosmetic turnaround became a total gut project – much to Jack's chagrin,' Jill says. 'For the interiors I worked with Marshall Watson, who I've known for over a decade. We felt that using black was a must, against which we layered pops of rich golden ochre and the perfect green (which is not too cool or warm). My three 18th-century chairs were regilded but in good enough condition to actually use. The custom sofa pulls out into a sleeper and was one of the most expensive purchases of the entire apartment but we love it.'

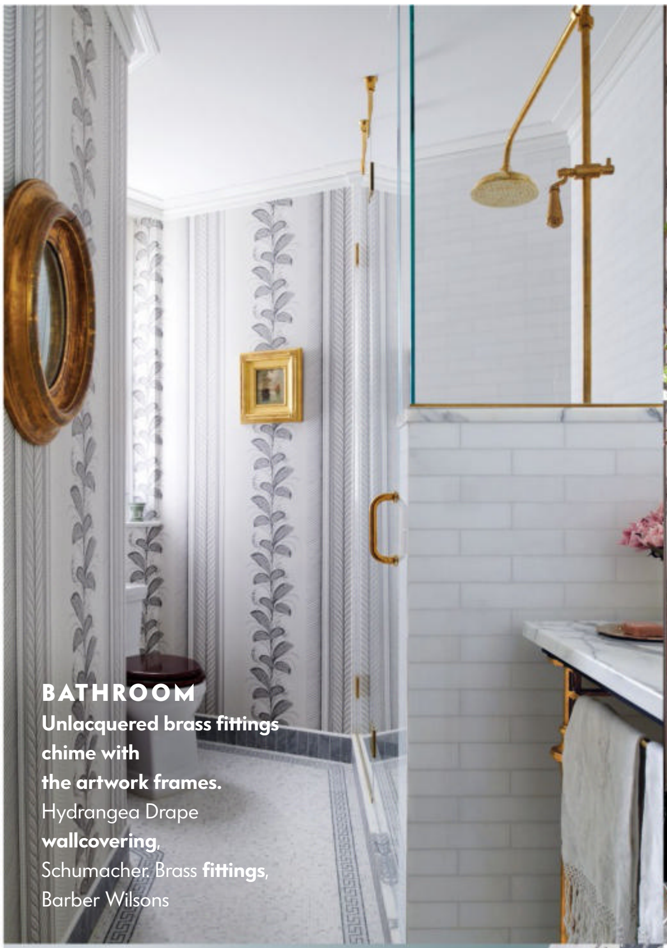
Despite being heavily involved in the redecoration of the apartment Jill says she still has a 'pinch me now' moment when she views her surroundings. 'The wallcovering in the bedroom is called Chariot of Dawn Toile Panel Set and was remastered from my original toile de Nantes from the 18th century, which was itself inspired by Aurora, a fresco painted by Guido Reni in Rome in 1614 [both were eras in which anything neoclassical was the toast of the town].

I was thrilled that Schumacher chose this and reimagined it, blown up 13 times. It's very dramatic. When your eyes pop open in the morning you feel like you're up in the clouds with these beautiful goddesses. This is very much a "tuxedo" of an apartment and every time I walk in and see my collection decorating it I get goose bumps.'

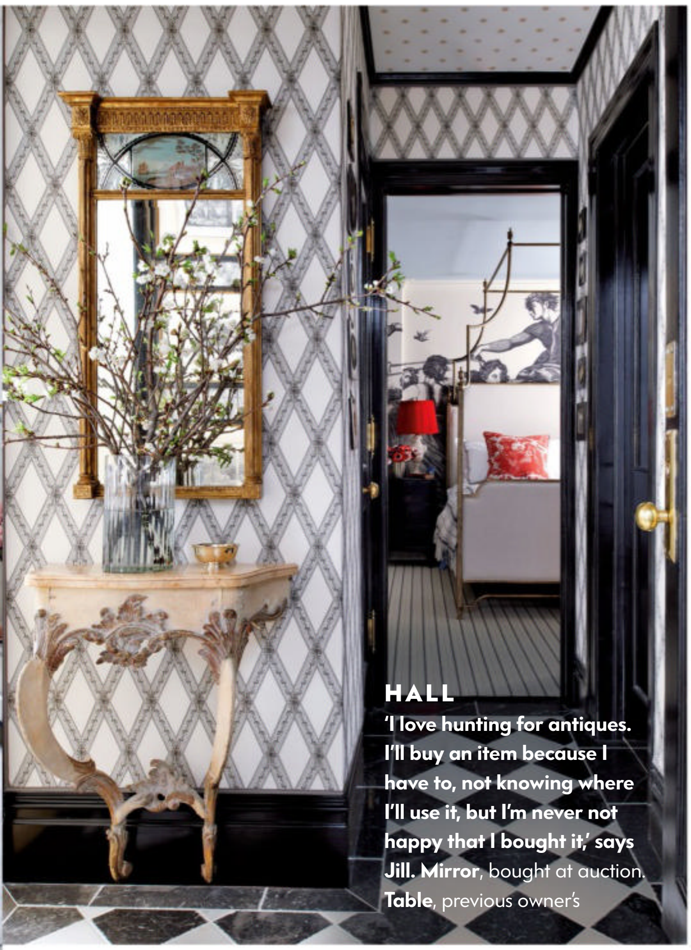
■ thelasersohncollection.com



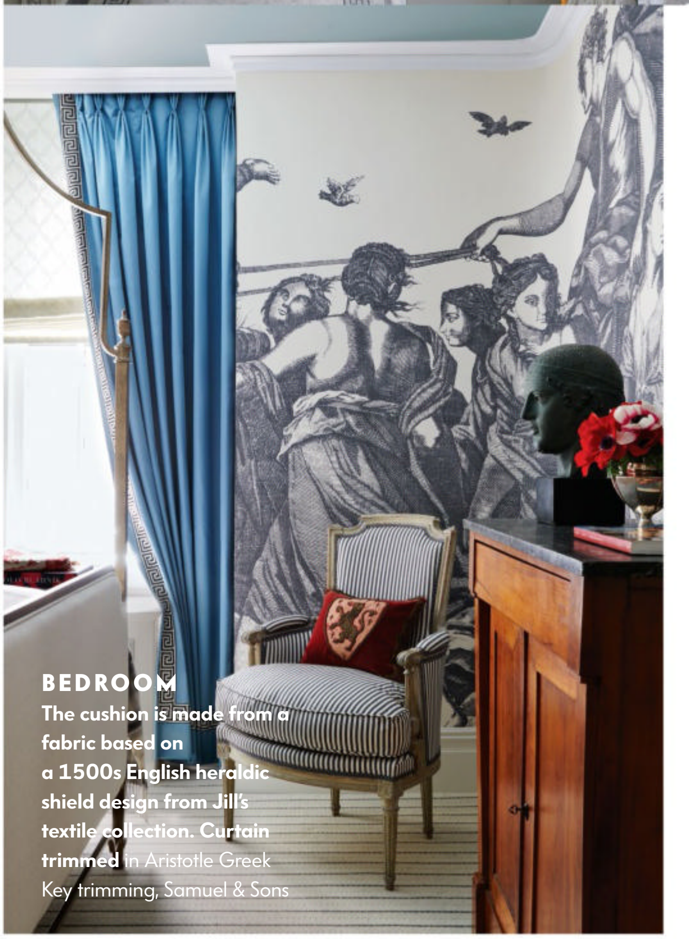
KITCHEN
Another sensational wallpaper is used here. Based on an 18th-century design, it looks thoroughly modern with the high-gloss black units. **Cabinetry**, Tedd Wood Fine Cabinetry. Source similar **hardware** at Corston. Les Scenes Contemporaines **wallpaper**, Jill Lasersohn Toile Collection for Schumacher **wallpaper,** Jill Lasersohn Toile Collection for Schumacher



BATHROOM
Unlacquered brass fittings chime with the artwork frames. Hydrangea Drape **wallcovering**, Schumacher. Brass **fittings**, Barber Wilsons



HALL
'I love hunting for antiques. I'll buy an item because I have to, not knowing where I'll use it, but I'm never not happy that I bought it,' says Jill. Mirror, bought at auction. **Table**, previous owner's



BEDROOM
The cushion is made from a fabric based on a 1500s English heraldic shield design from Jill's textile collection. Curtain trimmed in Aristotle Greek Key trimming, Samuel & Sons

Q&A Jill Lasersohn

The designer shares her style inspiration

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS English, neoclassic, traditional.

FAVOURITE BUILDING
Marie Antoinette's Le Hameau de la Reine at Versailles… for so many reasons.

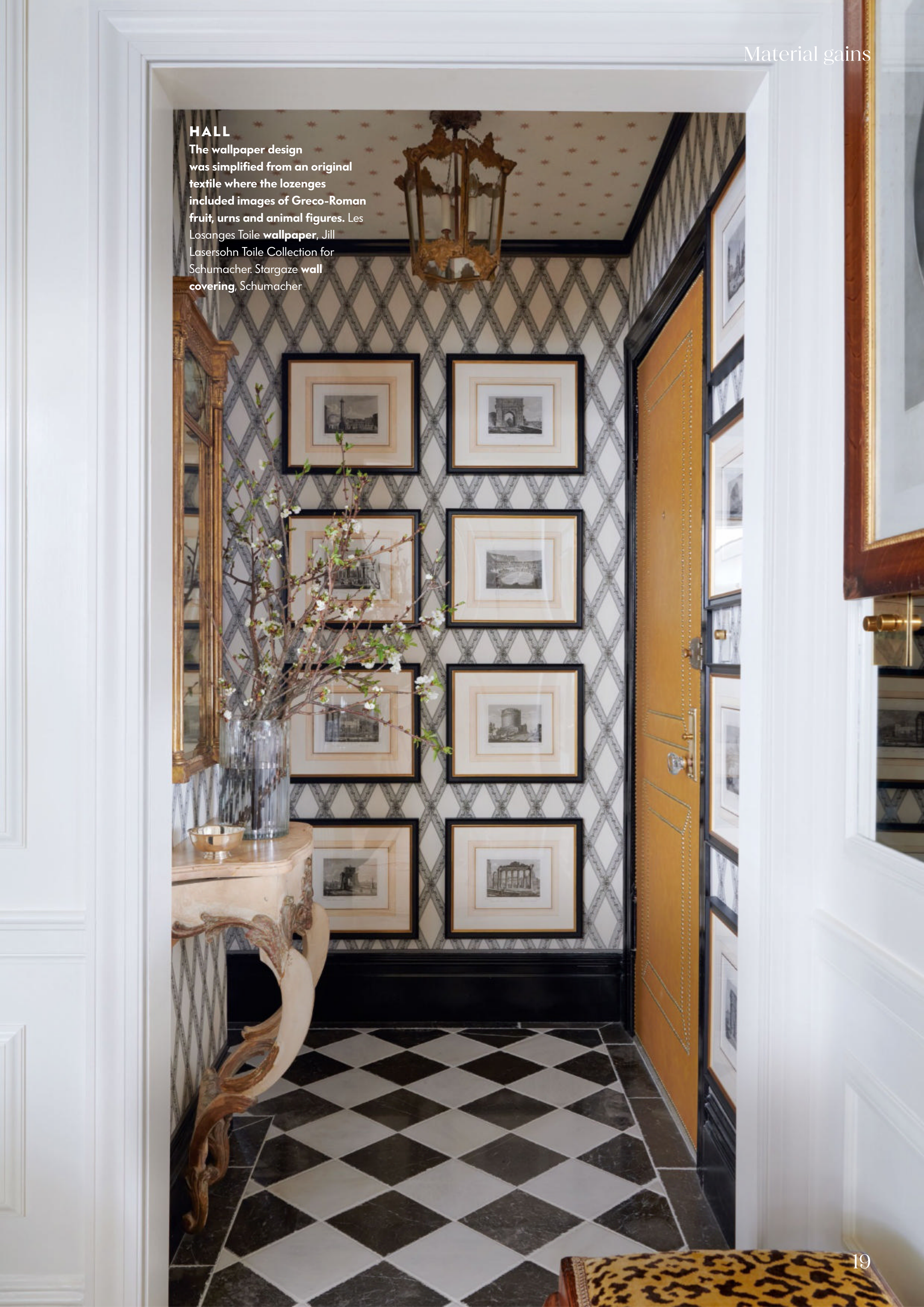
DESIGN HERO Jacques Garcia. On a totally other oeuvre I also have to mention Diamond & Baratta… so much fun!

WHAT YOU ARE READING RIGHT NOW We just returned from a wine tour of Bordeaux and I'm fascinated with Eleanor of Aquitaine and just started reading about her.

BEST GIFT YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN Besides my daughters, it's the ability to collect and indulge in textiles, travel and study. I'm very aware of how fortunate I am to have a passion, the means and a supporting partner.

A LUXURY YOU CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT Travel.

WORDS TO LIVE BY 'To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom,' Socrates.



HALL

The wallpaper design was simplified from an original textile where the lozenges included images of Greco-Roman fruit, urns and animal figures. Les Losanges Toile **wallpaper**, Jill Lasersohn Toile Collection for Schumacher. Stargaze **wall covering**, Schumacher

Charm school

Buying a house in which little had been touched in 50 years proved the perfect opportunity to create a home that is a study in everything enchanting

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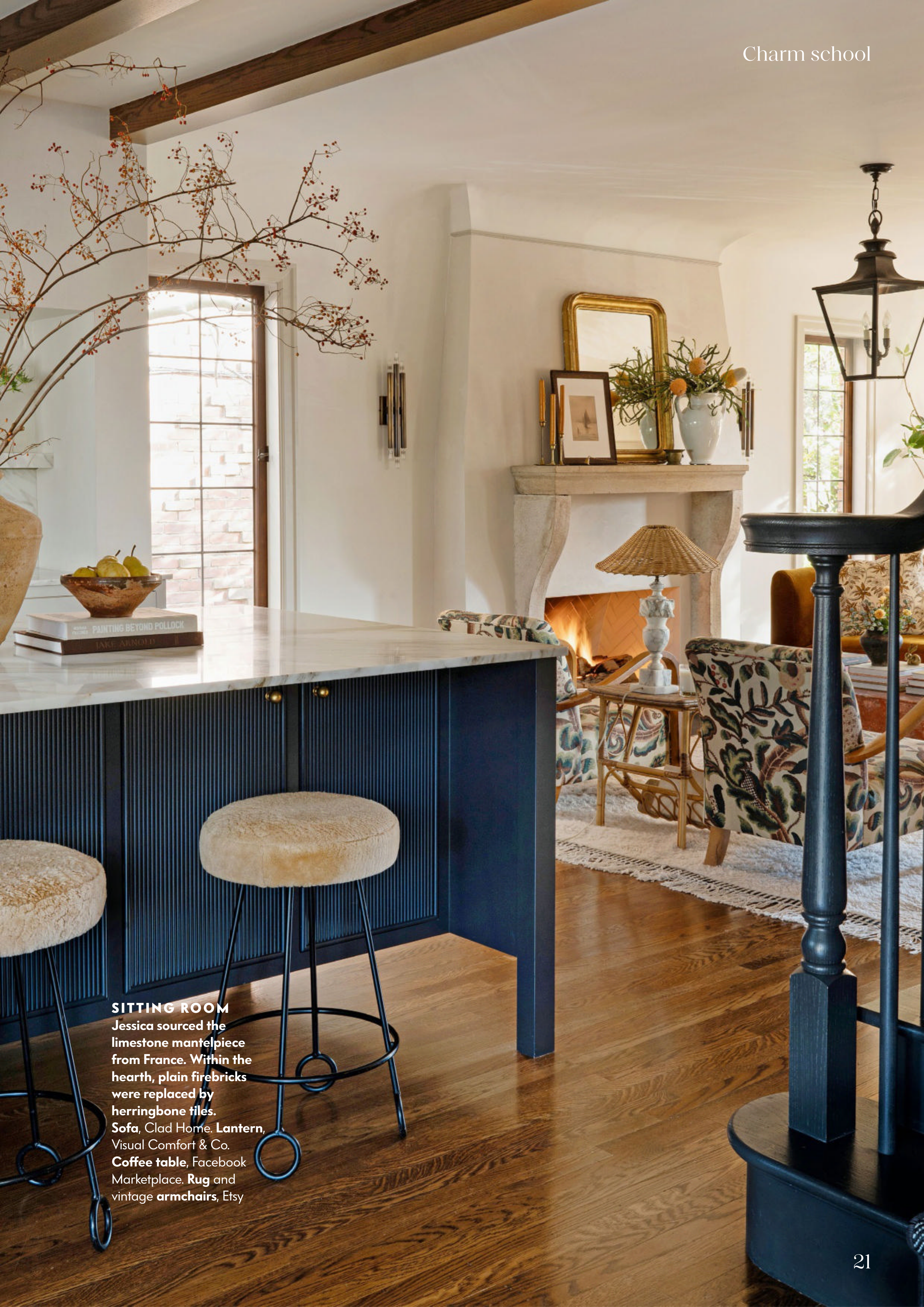
WORDS JULIET BENNING **PHOTOGRAPHY** CASS PHOTO



SITTING ROOM
Jessica sourced the limestone mantelpiece from France. Within the hearth, plain firebricks were replaced by herringbone tiles.
Sofa, Clad Home. **Lantern**, Visual Comfort & Co. **Coffee table**, Facebook Marketplace. **Rug** and vintage **armchairs**, Etsy

PAINTING BEYOND POLL
JAKE ARNOLD

KITCHEN
New timber beams resonate with the Tudor style of the architecture. The bar stools have been covered in a resilient shearling fabric.
Units supplied by Superior Cabinets. **Walls in** Swiss Coffee, Benjamin Moore. **Surfaces in** Calacatta gold marble. **Bar stools**, Etsy

With its steeply pitched roof, russet bricks and prominent chimney, Jessica and Scott Nelson's Seattle home has a fairytale-like charm that would make it an ideal shoot location for a cosy romcom. Built in the Tudor revival style in 1929, the home had stayed in the former owner's family for around 50 years. 'In that time, they had done almost nothing to it,' says Jessica, who runs Jessica Nelson Design while Scott also works at the firm. 'We were really looking for something that was almost untouched because I wanted to put my stamp on it. The house had received a fresh coat of white paint on the walls but it was otherwise very plain. There was no stain on the floorboards and we didn't even have outlets in the bathrooms. But it was in great condition,' she adds.

The move had been prompted by Jessica and Scott's growing children, Gemma and Graham, who would soon be on their feet and eager to explore. 'We had been living about 15 minutes across town but the house was on a busy road,' says Jessica. 'The appeal of this property is that it's at the end of the street and right next to a park.'

But despite its quaint allure, the house had actually been on the market for some time. 'The layout was tricky,' explains Jessica. 'It had a tiny kitchen on the side of the house and at the bottom of the stairs were five doors, making for a chaotic floor plan. Upstairs bedrooms were connected through Jack and Jill doors that meant you had to go through one to get to another.' Without too much upheaval, Jessica and Scott were able to replan for better functionality and layout while also carving out square meterage within the gabled roof.

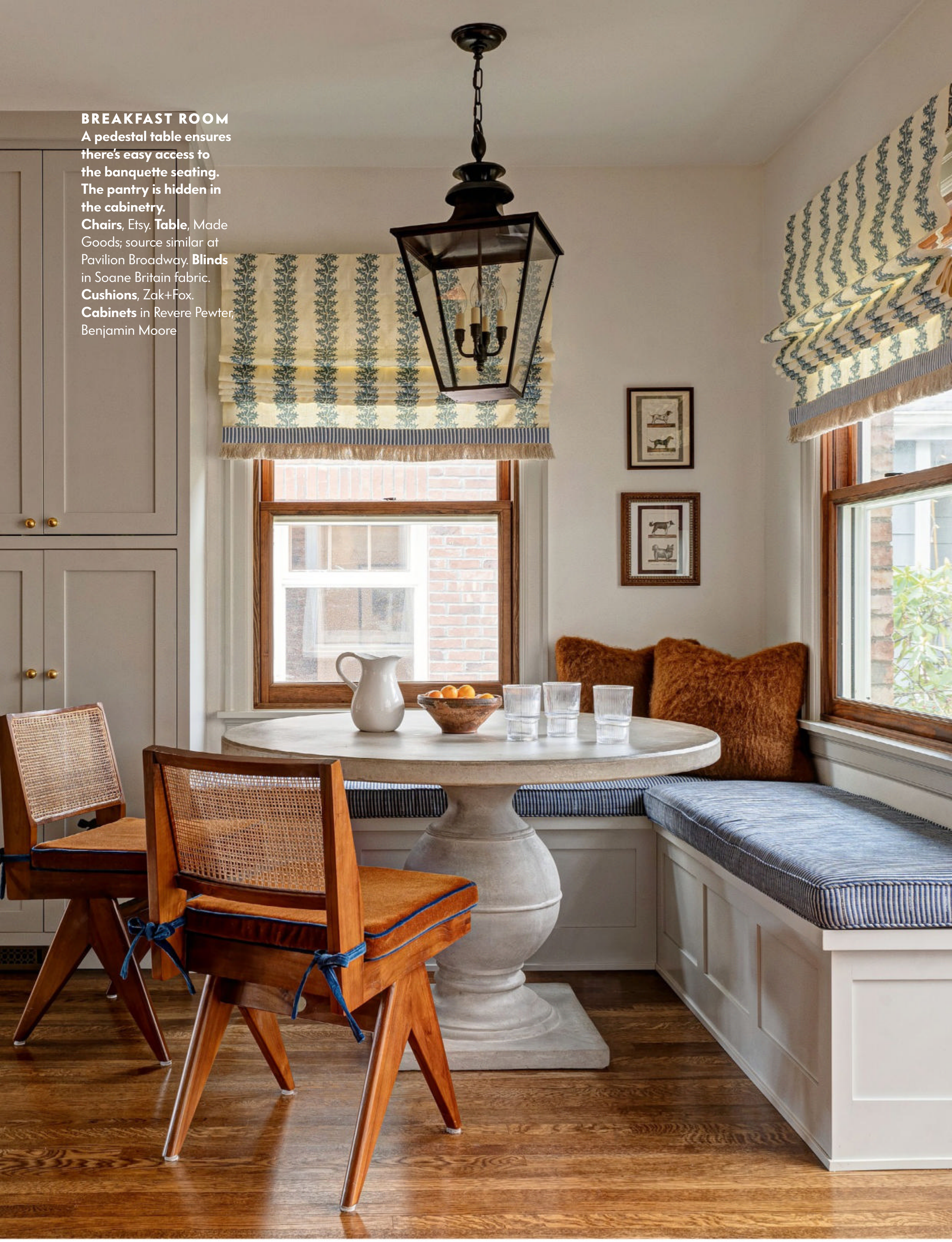
Downstairs, a wall was removed to make a joined kitchen and living area. Upstairs, a corridor was created for access and, by adding a staircase, the family were able to make the attic space a family room with bunk beds as well as a place for Jessica to work. 'We've gained 500 square feet up there and it's become one of our favourite parts of the house,' she enthuses.

While the lower ceiling heights and cottagey feel of the architecture might naturally encourage a choice of paler tones, Jessica felt a bolder, more dramatic approach was necessary. Demonstrated to most striking effect in the hallway, Jessica explains her choices: 'After we moved in, I had decision fatigue so painted it white but in adding the staircase up to the attic, we had lost a window, which I was struggling with. Then one night in November, I got a can of dark green paint and just started painting the walls myself. It's now become this jewel-box moment where the artwork, especially with its gold framing, really sings. It makes me happy now every time I walk through the hallway. And from there, I continued to embrace the moodiness of the house and everything snowballed as I added more colours and layers.'

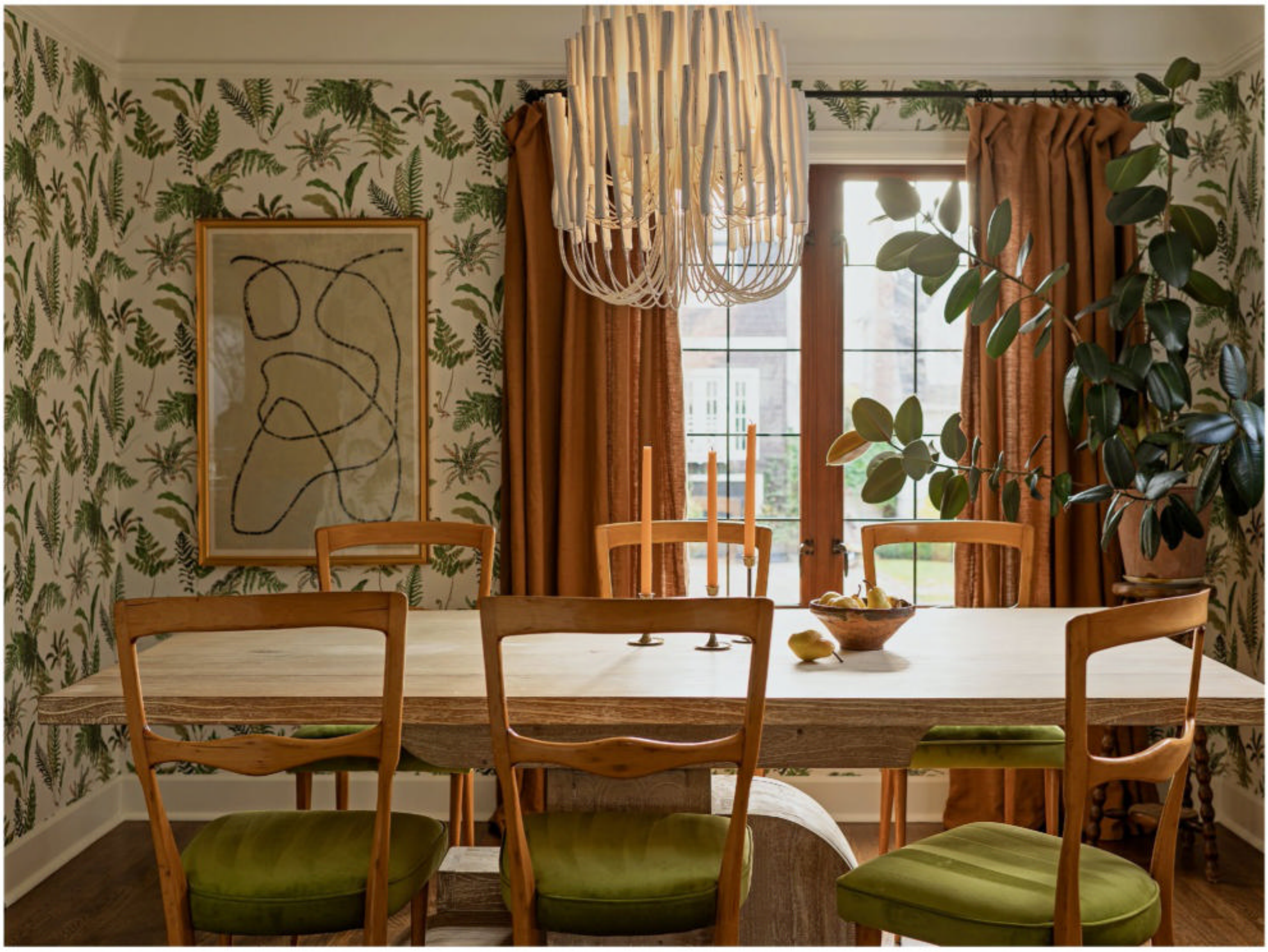
Their former home being of 'opposite dimensions' to this one, Jessica decided she wanted to start afresh with all the furnishings. 'I found lots of pieces on 1stDibs and Chairish, and a ton of things on Etsy. My dining room chairs are from Poland but the seller was happy to disassemble them and ship them over. The pale green velvet accent chair was something that I hesitated on, later to regret, only to find it came up for sale again three months later on Facebook Marketplace and, fortunately, it was only a 30-minute drive away. I've also really lucked out because my kids love coming antiquing with me. Daughter Gemma picked out a lot of the artwork for her room from estate sales and vintage stores in Seattle.

Outside, a timber deck has been added to encourage outdoor living all round. 'The climate here is pretty similar to the UK, but we have two heaters and a firepit so the deck gets used for entertaining even in wintertime.' In the garden beyond, vibrant borders curve around the manicured lawn. 'I love gardening and we've now put in some raised vegetable beds so every year the kids pick out what we will grow and help me dig up the produce in the spring.' A house that has evolved to nurture family life, the Nelson stamp has truly made its mark.

■ jessicanelsondesign.com

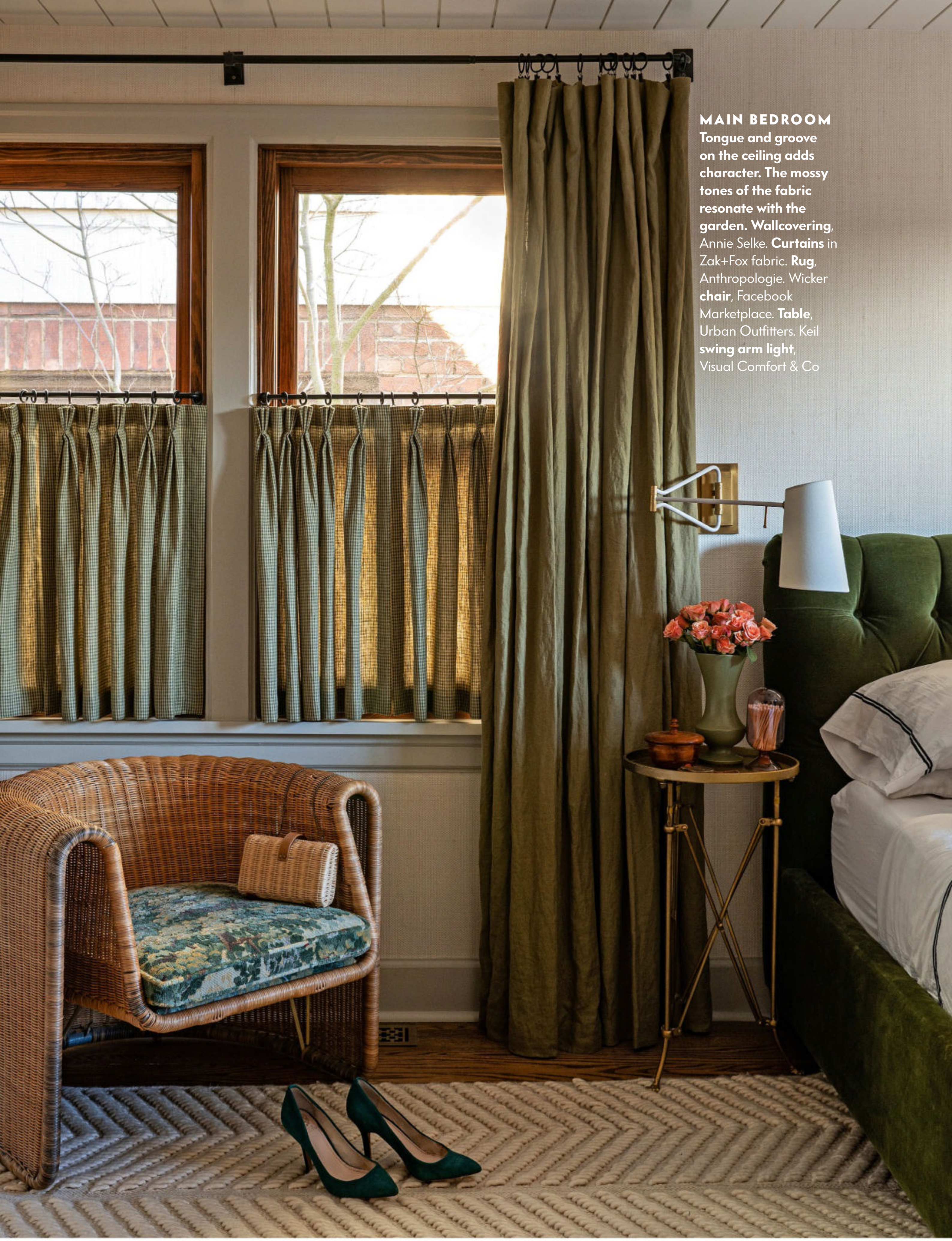


BREAKFAST ROOM
A pedestal table ensures there's easy access to the banquette seating. The pantry is hidden in the cabinetry.
Chairs, Etsy. **Table**, Made Goods; source similar at Pavilion Broadway. **Blinds** in Soane Britain fabric. **Cushions**, Zak+Fox. **Cabinets** in Revere Pewter, Benjamin Moore

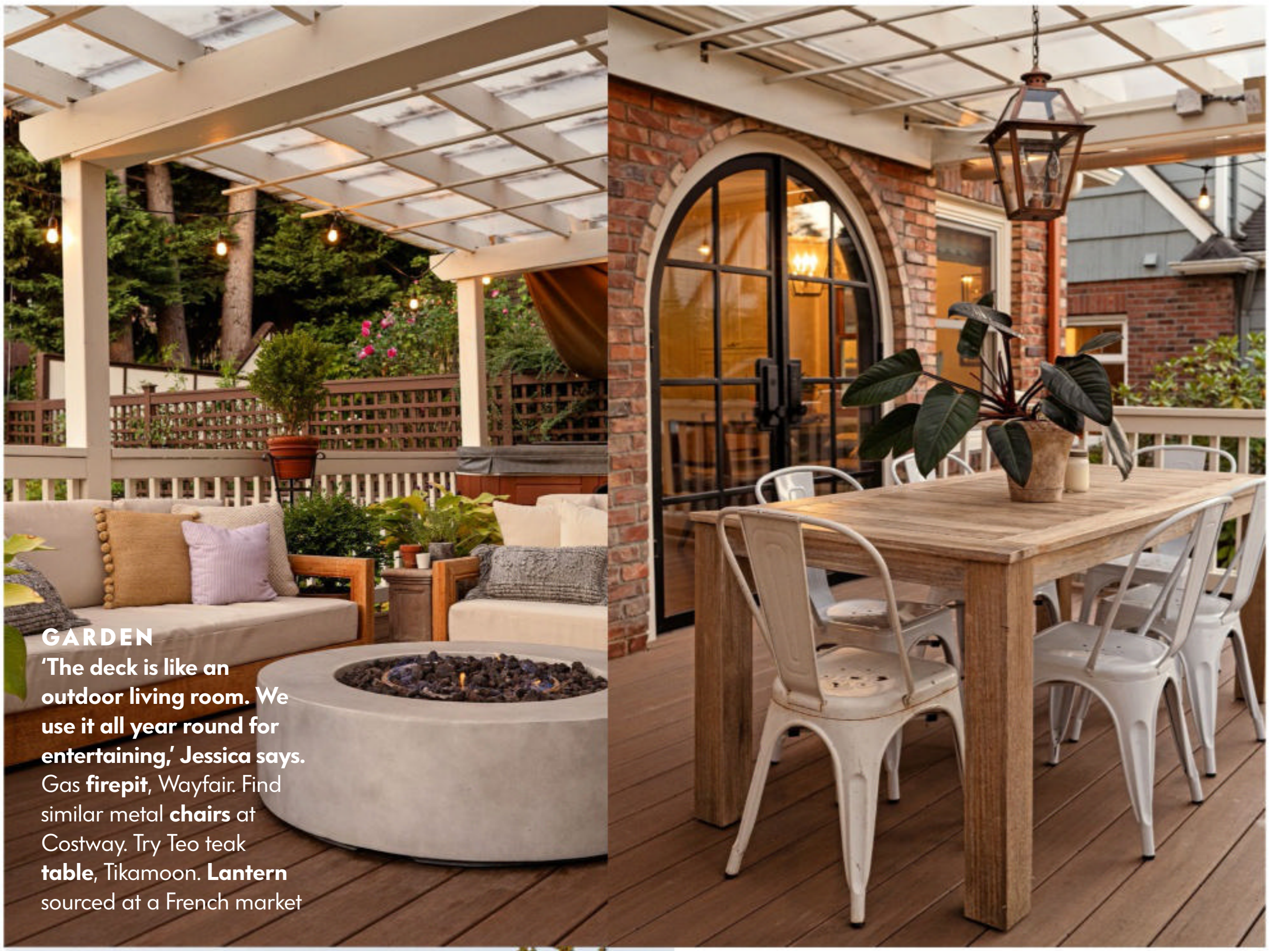


DINING ROOM
Jessica chose a wallpaper that reflects her love of gardening. The sculptural chandelier gives off scattered light.
Fernarium in Ivory & Leaf **wallpaper**, Schumacher. **Table**, Jayson Home. Vintage **chairs**, Etsy. Tilda **chandelier**, Arteriors. Try Adeline **side table**, Sharland England. **Curtains** in fabric from MagicLinen

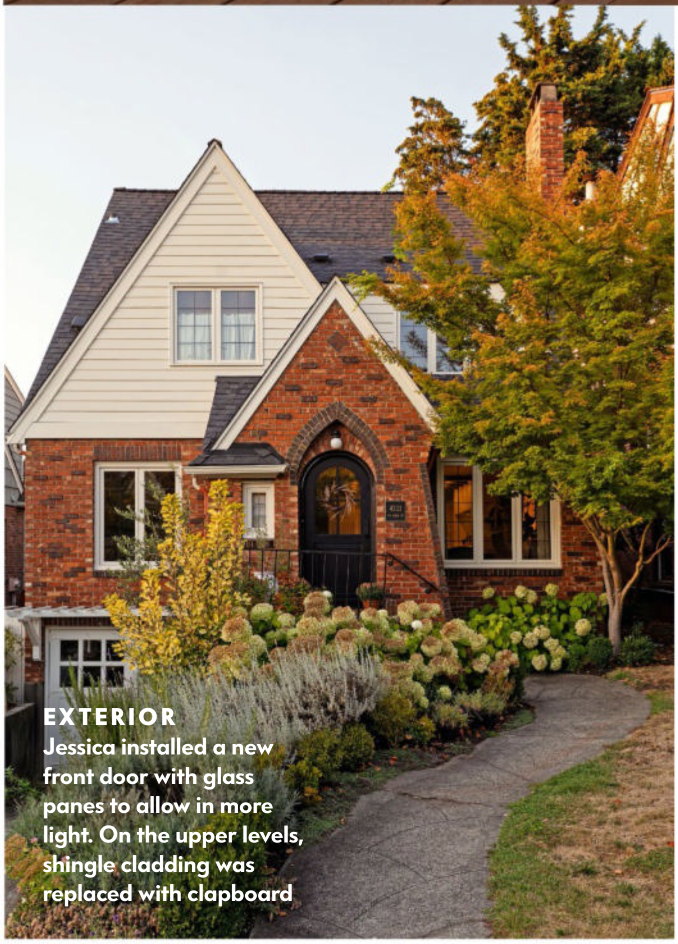
MISTAKES
WERE
MADE



MAIN BEDROOM **Tongue and groove on the ceiling adds character. The mossy tones of the fabric resonate with the garden. Wallcovering**, Annie Selke. **Curtains** in Zak+Fox fabric. **Rug**, Anthropologie. Wicker **chair**, Facebook Marketplace. **Table**, Urban Outfitters. Keil **swing arm light**, Visual Comfort & Co



GARDEN
'The deck is like an outdoor living room. We use it all year round for entertaining,' Jessica says. Gas **firepit**, Wayfair. Find similar metal **chairs** at Costway. Try Teo teak **table**, Tikamoon. **Lantern** sourced at a French market



EXTERIOR
Jessica installed a new front door with glass panes to allow in more light. On the upper levels, shingle cladding was replaced with clapboard

Q&A Jessica Nelson

The designer shares her style inspiration

GREATEST SUCCESS The layout work we did – it has made such a difference.

BIGGEST INDULGENCE I spent a lot on my Calacatta marble worktop.

GO-TO COLOUR In this project you'll see a lot of green scattered throughout. It's mine and my husband and son's favourite colour.

DESIGN HERO I love Jake Arnold – his designs are timeless yet feel so fresh.

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS Warm, colourful, elevated.

FAVOURITE BUILDING The Smith Tower in downtown Seattle is awesome.

SECRET ADDRESS I've found so many things on Etsy – especially from sellers in Poland, Slovenia, France and the UK. Most will try to accommodate your shipping needs even if you're abroad.

WORDS TO LIVE BY When you come home, you want your house to feel like a warm hug.

This metallic yacht adds a nod to America's nautical past

The power of textiles & texture

From homespun charm to heritage style, textiles and textures are key to creating the traditional rustic American aesthetic

WORDS SOPHIE BARTON

Whether you're styling a farmhouse kitchen or a New England-inspired living room, it's the symphony of textiles and textures that gives American interiors their depth and soul. From homespun quilts to natural fabrics and well-worn leather, these tactile layers evoke a sense of home and heritage, which is so key to the look. But textures and textiles don't just add visual interest and a sense of comfort; they are also the secret weapons when it comes to pulling a décor scheme together. Here's how to use them to get the look...

Chequered curtains and vintage quilts add an instant Americana warmth

THINK CLASSIC

'Americana décor is a beautiful way to celebrate heritage, without being flashy,' says Colorado-based designer Jennifer Rogers. 'I always suggest my clients start with textiles because they give a sense of craftsmanship and comfort, which brings the Americana style to life. Look for classic textiles like handwoven throws or vintage quilts to bring an instant warmth. To add texture, include them in the space with throw pillows, or as framed textile art. Fabrics like handwoven cotton and denim also work well for this aesthetic.' Interior designer Sean Symington adds that natural or handmade materials are a key part of the look. 'Think about the art of quilting,' he suggests. 'And that all-American style, reminiscent of Ralph Lauren, which often uses the iconic palette of red, white and blue. Opt for natural or tactile fabrics, like textured wool throws, mohair or even velvet.' Heritage fabrics, such as classic tweeds, jute and herringbone also add a homely, rustic style, as do those that hail from the American southwest. Often featuring earthy tones and bold hues, these draw inspiration from the area's natural beauty, weaving traditions and art.

PLAY WITH PRINTS

From ticking stripes to gingham and Navajo-inspired weaves, American style is a masterclass in layering prints. 'If you're after a statement piece, go for prints like chequerboards, gingham, and stars-and-stripes,' says Jennifer, designer at BKC Kitchen and Bath (bkckitchenandbath.com). 'When used carefully, these patterns look charming instead of overpowering.'

If you hanker after more of a cottagecore vibe, how about chintz, which has historically popped up in American design? George Washington brought it Stateside back in the 18th century, and the classic print later became interior icon Dorothy Draper's signature style. 'Think unapologetic, large-scale florals on white backgrounds, rather than classic British chintz, which is traditionally smaller,' says Sean, Director at Sean Symington Interior Design (seansymington.com). 'Be bold with it.' Not sure how to bring a room together? Sean suggests using a 'hero print' as your base. 'You can then pull the colours for your walls and joinery from that fabric,' he explains. 'Use it as a jumping off point for your colour palette, and build from that. I start with fabrics, but you could also start with a rug or a piece of art. It might even be a cushion.'

ANCHOR YOUR SPACE

To create a sense of rustic warmth, stick with simple, stripped-back timber flooring, topped with rugs. 'You could even paint flooring in a chequerboard pattern,' explains Sean. 'A rug also really grounds a space. The woven look is very Americana, but you could also add texture in the form of kilims, Persian rugs or even hand-knotted Oushak wool rugs. Alternatively, try using a larger seagrass or sisal rug, then layering a smaller antique kilim on top, perhaps in front of your sofa.' Jennifer also recommends opting for braided wool rugs or distressed Persian-style designs. 'They add a historical texture and colour, without clashing with other elements,' she explains. 'Also, the bigger the rug, the better it looks. For added depth, try layering a small patterned rug over a neutral jute base.'

A textured wallpaper lends a sense of heritage to a space

Textured rugs and textiles add warmth to a stripped back look

FOLLOW DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Incorporating textiles and textures into your interior can feel overwhelming, but it helps to follow some simple principles of design. 'Use repetition and try layering prints on top of prints,' explains Sean. 'Combine geometric prints with organic prints, and layer both large and small-scale prints. For example, you might start with a large-scale print containing greens and blues, then layer geometrics, checks or neutrals on that, to create a contrast. Think about the continuation of colour too. If you have raspberry on one side of the room, include a pop of raspberry in a piece of art on the opposite wall. Don't be afraid to fight colour with colour and, if you love a particular shade, you can always build your whole décor scheme around it.'

LAYER IT

It's all too easy to make blinds and curtains an afterthought, but they are more than just window dressings. They frame a room, control light, add texture and complete your scheme. 'To add another layer of Americana, go with light curtains or blinds in natural linen or cotton,' suggests Jennifer. 'Neutral colours, like faded red, dusty blue, or cream look gorgeous in this theme. Simple pleats or relaxed roman blinds work well, too. Add in pillow covers with hand-stitched details or ruffle trims, but stick to a complementary palette.'

USE TEXTURED ACCESSORIES

Of course, texture doesn't just come in the form of fabrics. Carefully chosen accessories and one-off pieces are another great way to add a sense of nostalgia and heritage, as is shaker or shiplap style panelling.
'If you're channelling rustic, log cabin vibes, you could add a traditional rocking chair, or even an antler chandelier,' says Sean. 'Think about other timber treatments too, like rattan or Windsor chairs, or look out for metal signing, such as vintage Coca-Cola signs.' Consider nautical accents too, which hark back to America's maritime past. 'Sailboats give a nod to American history,' says Sean. 'There are also amazing designers who specialise in shellwork. They cover everything from mirrors to consoles.' To up the authentic American feel, consider incorporating texture in the form of wicker, dried florals, feathered dream catchers or even cacti. 'Elements like woven baskets, dried hydrangeas, or even wheat in ceramic jugs add amazing warmth to a space,' adds Jennifer. 'These pieces really tell a story and, when styled mindfully, they give the space a timeless quality that feels beautifully American.'

This large kilim anchors the space with its earthy hues

The texture edit

Celebrate rustic style with these soft textures, earthy tones and natural fabrics

THREE FEATHER EMBOSSED WALL ART

Hark back to the American frontier with this framed textured wall art.

CLICK STYLE
£49.50

MIXED DRIED GRASS BOUQUET

For a true rustic look, style this everlasting bouquet in a woven container.

COX & COX
£35

RUSTICA KILIM IKAT CUSHION

With their earthy hues and geometric design, these cushions ooze heritage vibes.

FRENCH BEDROOM
£52

RENU JUTE LAUNDRY BASKET

Embrace natural materials and keep things tidy, with this stylish jute laundry basket.

KAYU HOME
£120

WOOL BLANKET IN TERRACOTTA

For a cosy, homely look, try draping this chunky wool blanket over an armchair or sofa.

LOAF
£125

NOMAD TARIFA RUG

This clever Kilim feels soft like wool, yet it's made from 100% recycled plastic bottles.

WEAVERGREEN.COM
£195

SMALL CALIFORNIA BARREL CACTUS

Add colour and texture to your interior, with this lifelike faux cactus in a decorative terracotta pot.

HOMESCAPES ONLINE
£9.99

MYKONOS ROCKING CHAIR

Channel New England coastal vibes with this rattan rocking chair, perfect for summer.

GEORGE HOME
£139

RATTAN FOOTED BOWL

Bring a stylish touch to your table, with this footed rattan serving bowl.

M&S
£20

BORNEO RATTAN CHAIR

This hand-crafted armchair is made from natural rattan, and topped with a textured bouclé cushion.

DESSER.CO.UK
£314.99

PHOTOGRAPHS CLICKSTYLE, COX&COX, FRENCH BEDROOM, KAYU HOME, LOAF, WEAVERGREEN, HOMESCAPES ONLINE, GEORGE HOME, M&S, DESSER

Revived & refined

A century after it was built, this historic American home has been transformed – and it's involved a delicate dance between preservation and modernisation

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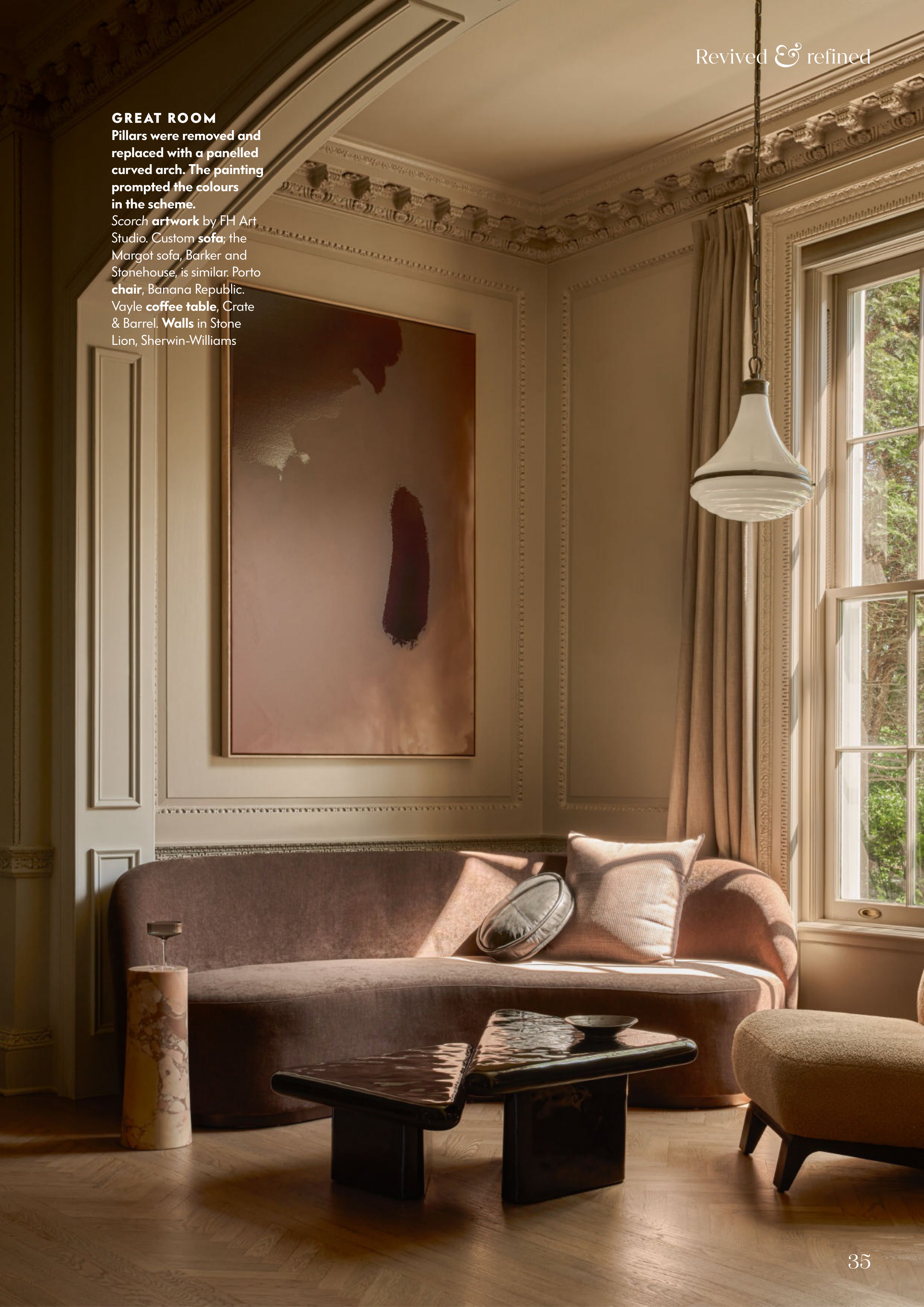
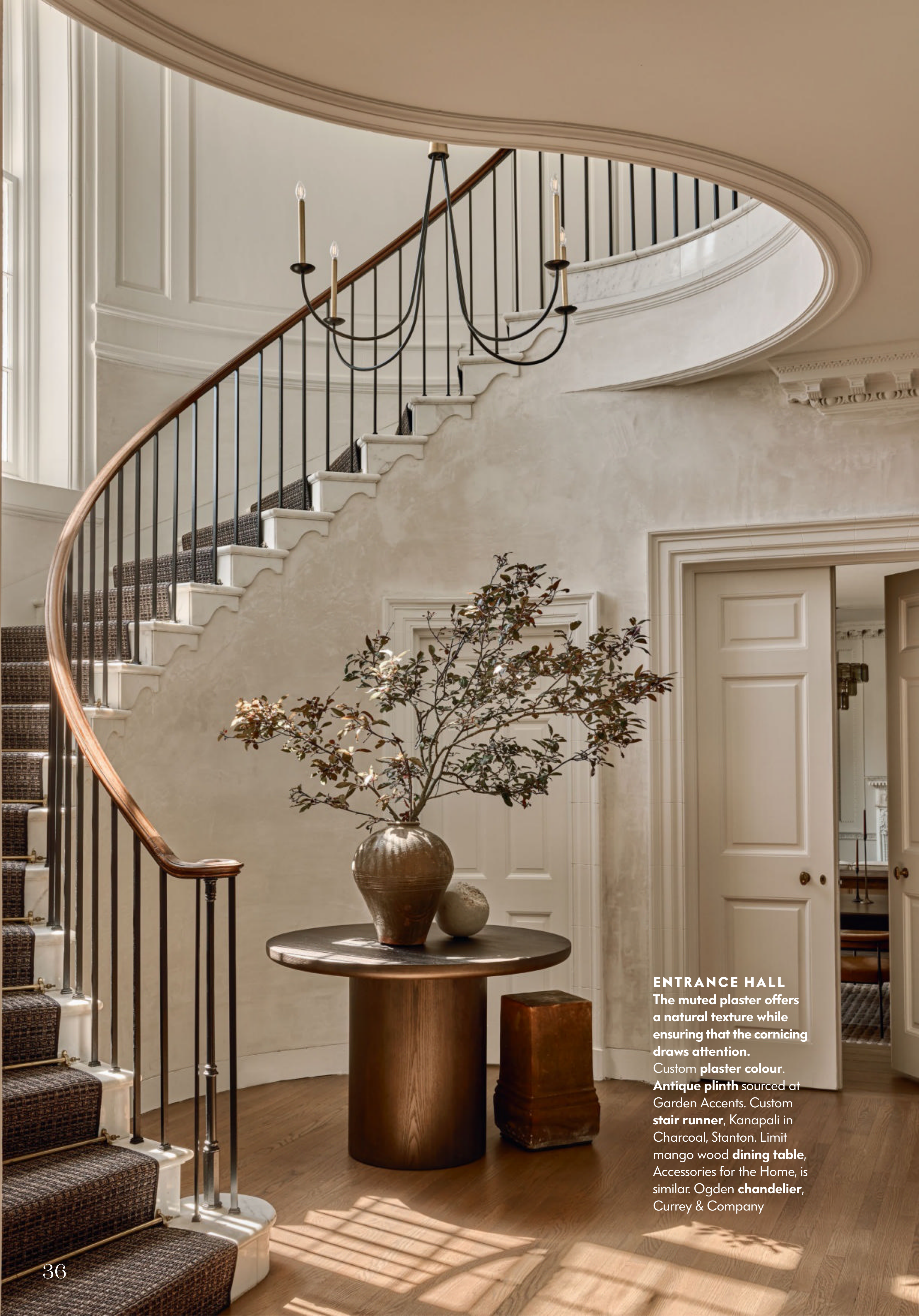
WORDS JULIET BENNING **STYLING** KRISTI HUNTER **PHOTOGRAPHY** JASON VARNEY



GREAT ROOM
Pillars were removed and replaced with a panelled curved arch. The painting prompted the colours in the scheme.
Scorch **artwork** by FH Art Studio. Custom **sofa**; the Margot sofa, Barker and Stonehouse, is similar. Porto **chair**, Banana Republic. Vayle **coffee table**, Crate & Barrel. **Walls** in Stone Lion, Sherwin-Williams



ENTRANCE HALL

The muted plaster offers a natural texture while ensuring that the cornicing draws attention.

Custom **plaster colour**. **Antique plinth** sourced at Garden Accents. Custom **stair runner**, Kanapali in Charcoal, Stanton. Limit mango wood **dining table**, Accessories for the Home, is similar. Ogden **chandelier**, Currey & Company

When the architect Horace Trumbauer designed homes, he envisioned them to have a long future. Renovating a Georgian revival property from his portfolio a century after it was built in 1925, Autumn Oser and Andre Golsorkhi found the property to be in rude health. 'It was built like a fortress – completely different from a dry wall house. Every wall and ceiling was made from poured concrete. Our structural engineer said you could take a semi-truck and park it on the second floor and you'd be fine,' Andre says with a laugh.

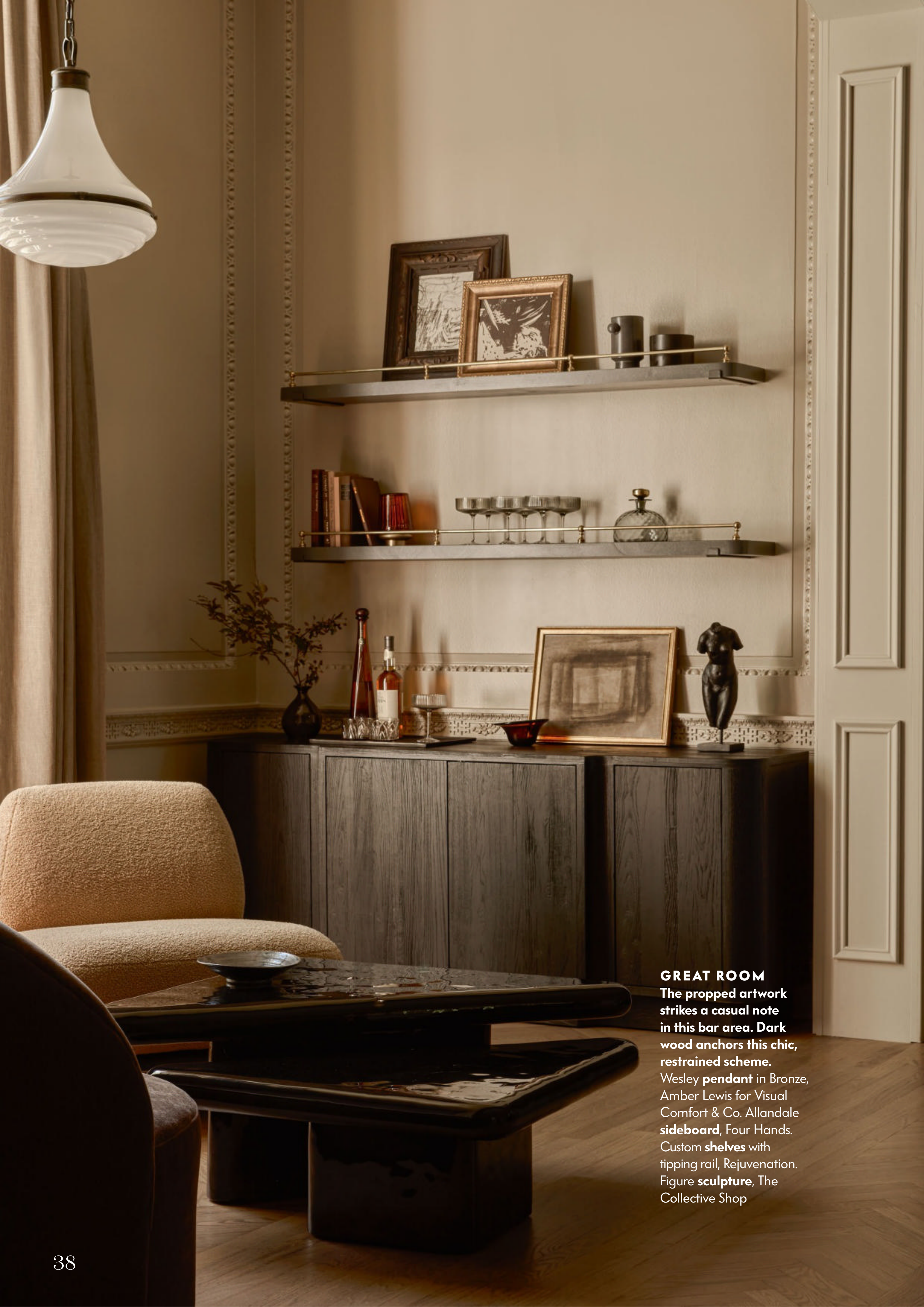
The husband-and-wife duo, who together founded residential design firm, Haldon House, took on the Philadelphia mansion's restoration on behalf of their friends, Lexie and Ty. 'We were actually looking for a big project for ourselves but when we found this house and Lexie and Ty caught wind of what we were doing, they jumped on the opportunity to make it their own,' Autumn says. Horace Trumbauer, who designed the Philadelphia Museum of Art, is well known in the area. While his buildings vary greatly in style, they all showcase elaborate internal architectural details. 'The features in this home are unique and could never be created again. We were fortunate that our friends wanted to lean into that authentic original charm and detail. They didn't want to just strip it all away and that was important to us,' Autumn explains.

But with two toddler daughters, James and Sivan, design decisions had to factor in modern family life. 'The biggest changes we made were in the layout. Big estate homes like this traditionally have the kitchen tucked away, but this family loves to cook so we wanted to place it at the heart of the house,' Andre says. Moving the kitchen into the former dining room and taking out walls opened up the sight lines on the ground floor and connected this heavily used family space to the garden via three sets of French doors. 'It was complicated because there was so much we wanted to preserve. We had to chisel through solid concrete walls then re-route the outdated services and utilities. It was a very delicate dance between preservation and modernisation,' he adds.

'The previous owner had taken great care of it. It was awesome and colourful but in a bit of a 90s time capsule,' Autumn notes. 'Our clients wanted more of a neutral palette and a sultry, moody atmosphere. We felt that the architectural details would benefit from a more muted palette that would tone them down, but we chose more saturated colours for the smaller rooms. We wanted to bring a French countryside influence to the kitchen, and the great room has a distinctly Parisienne flavour.' Designed expressly for refined grown-up leisure, this central room strikes a demure note with tones of chocolate, tan and burgundy and features a walnut bar with brass rails. 'Lexie and Ty have already had some wonderful gatherings here, enjoying intimate dinners and longer chats over drinks. They're really excited about the holiday season and hosting their first Thanksgiving here,' Autumn says. Quite the revelatory set-piece, the staircase wrapping its way up the back wall of the entrance hall, will be swathed in foliage for the festive season. Feeling that the existing wrought-iron gold and black stair rods were too ornate for the new pared-back hallway, the duo commissioned local tradesmen to fashion new straight rods. 'It was complicated to pull off as we wanted to preserve the curved wooden handrail itself and make sure the balusters were rigid and safe. The structure is made of solid concrete and marble so it doesn't creak at all,' Andre says. The garden surrounding the house offers another great opportunity for entertaining. 'Our new floor plan meant it was much more incorporated into the house. We built an outdoor kitchen and a wood-burning fireplace matched to the original brick and mortar of the house,' Andre says. 'There is the most incredible arboretum and the front yard is filled with flowers. There were also existing statues and fountains we were lucky to inherit,' adds Autumn. Having carefully preserved Horace's fine details for the future generations, his legacy will live on – steadfast in its solid foundations.

■ haldonhouse.com

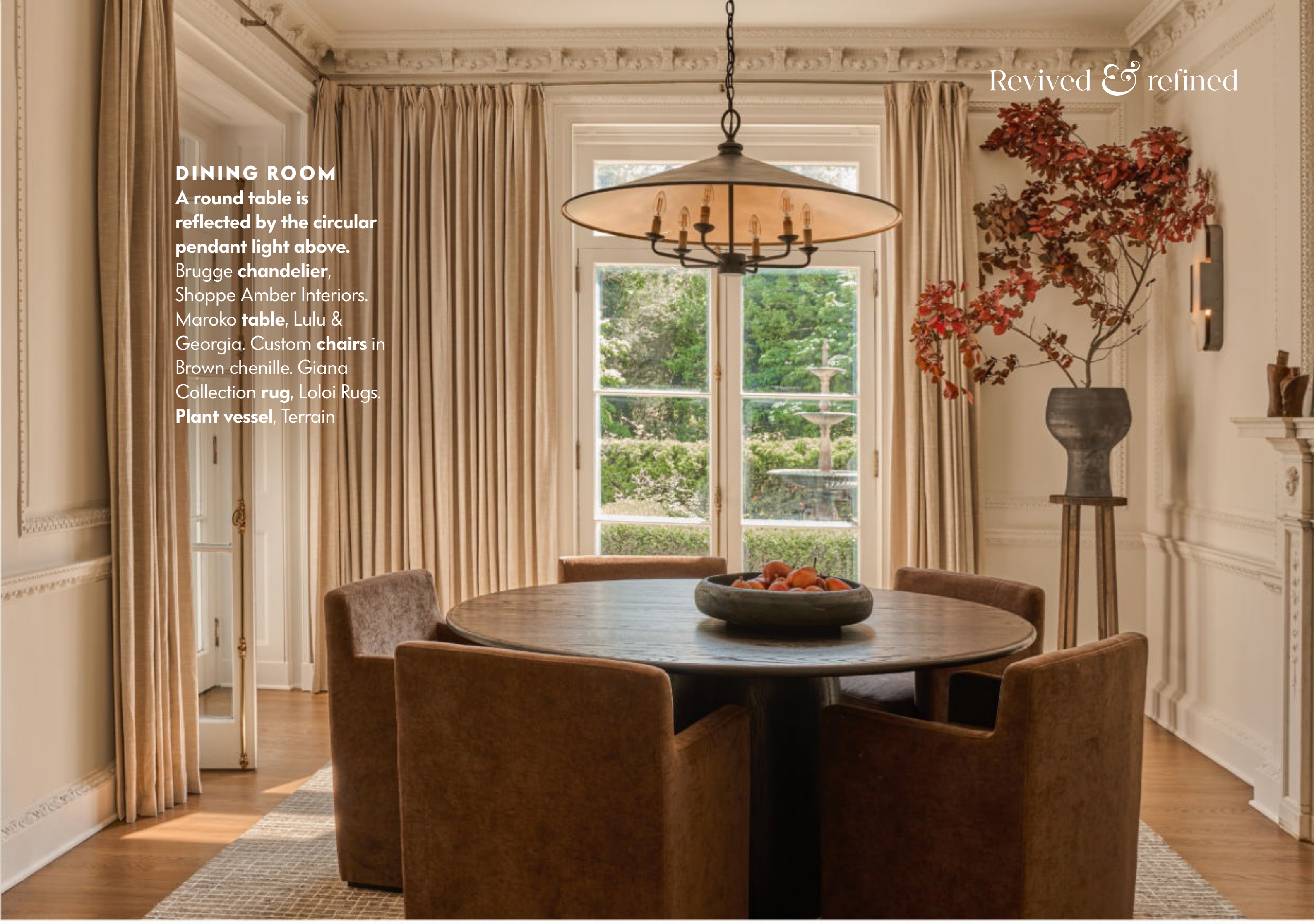
> “The fine details of Trumbauer's architecture have been preserved for future generations”



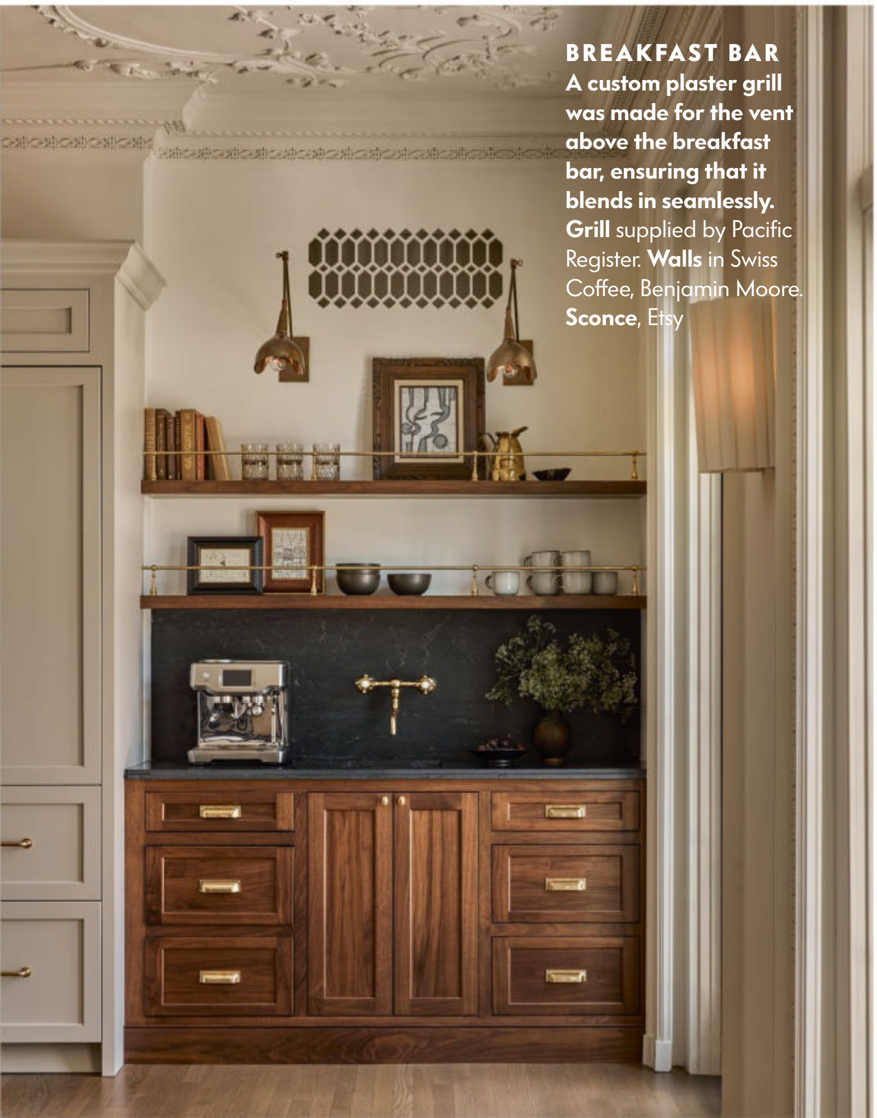
GREAT ROOM

The propped artwork strikes a casual note in this bar area. Dark wood anchors this chic, restrained scheme.

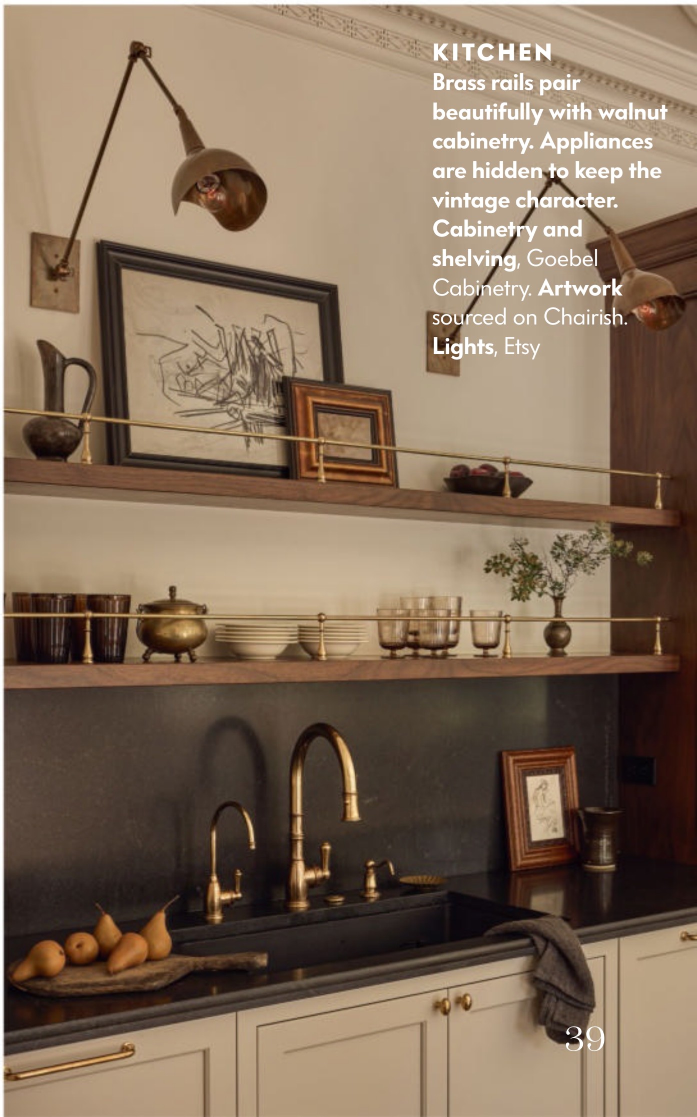
Wesley **pendant** in Bronze, Amber Lewis for Visual Comfort & Co. Allandale **sideboard**, Four Hands. Custom **shelves** with tipping rail, Rejuvenation. Figure **sculpture**, The Collective Shop



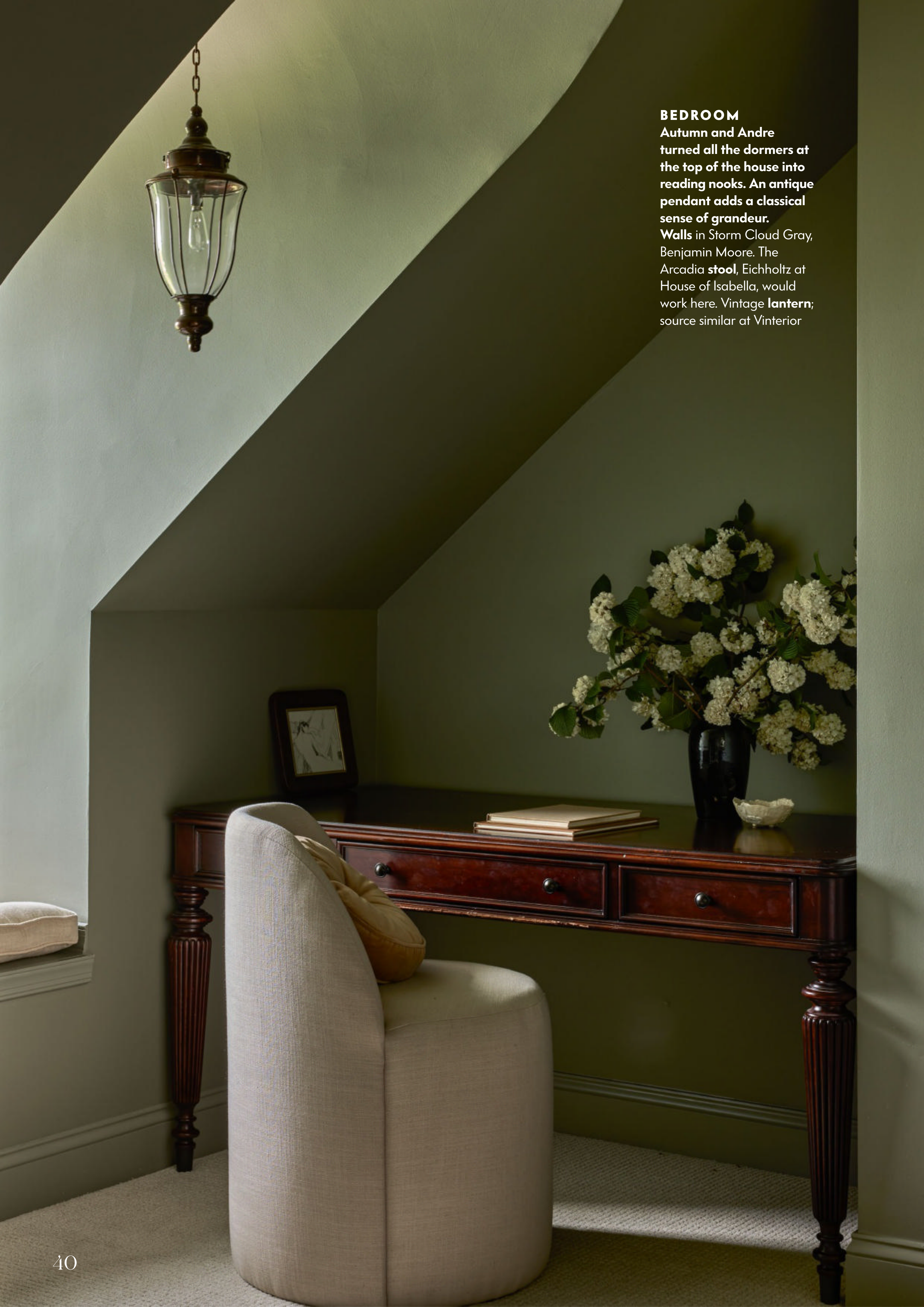
DINING ROOM
A round table is reflected by the circular pendant light above. Brugge **chandelier**, Shoppe Amber Interiors. Maroko **table**, Lulu & Georgia. Custom **chairs** in Brown chenille. Giana Collection **rug**, Loloi Rugs. **Plant vessel**, Terrain



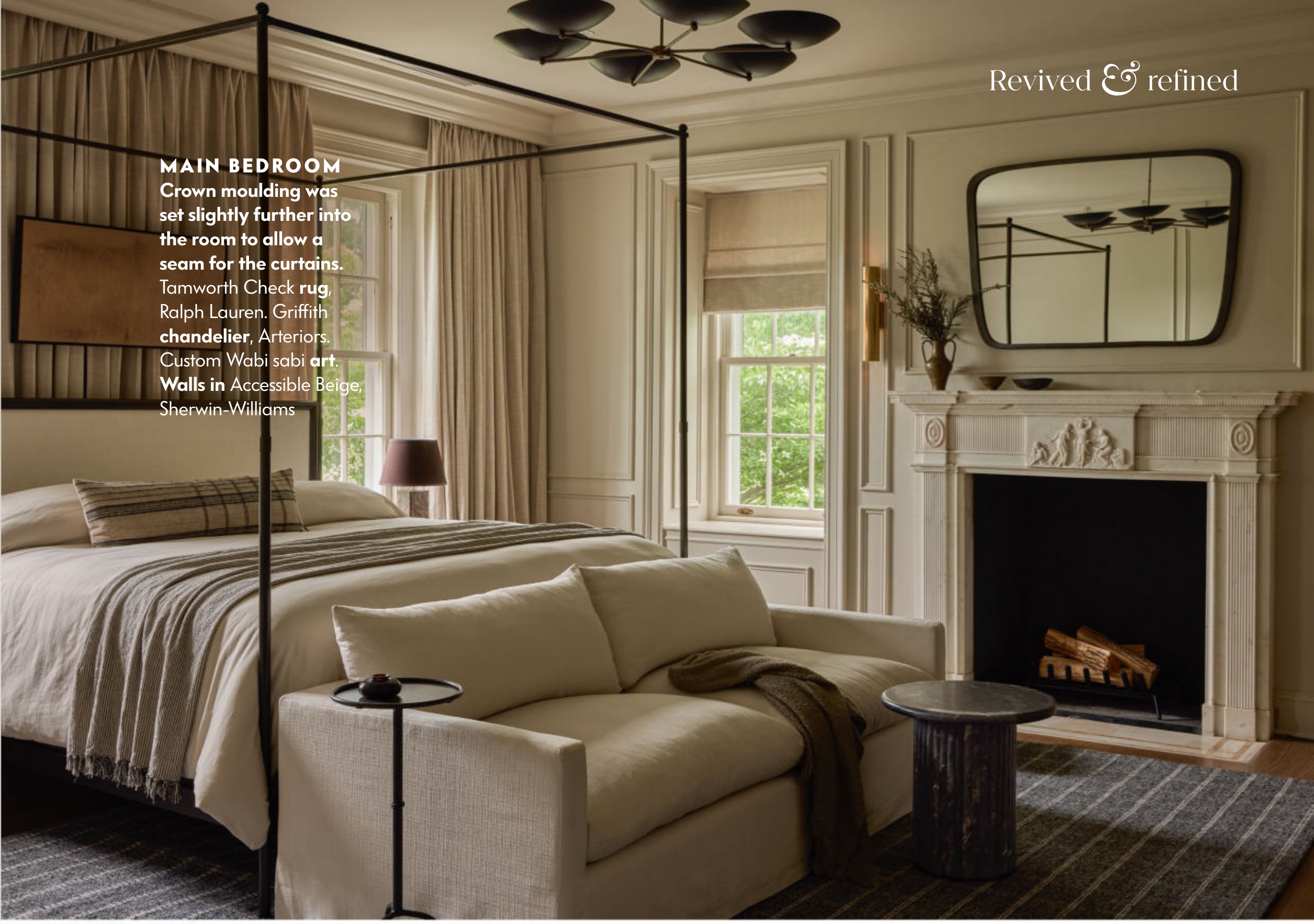
BREAKFAST BAR
A custom plaster grill was made for the vent above the breakfast bar, ensuring that it blends in seamlessly. **Grill** supplied by Pacific Register. **Walls** in Swiss Coffee, Benjamin Moore. **Sconce**, Etsy



KITCHEN
Brass rails pair beautifully with walnut cabinetry. Appliances are hidden to keep the vintage character. **Cabinetry and shelving**, Goebel Cabinetry. **Artwork** sourced on Chairish. **Lights**, Etsy



BEDROOM
Autumn and Andre turned all the dormers at the top of the house into reading nooks. An antique pendant adds a classical sense of grandeur.
Walls in Storm Cloud Gray, Benjamin Moore. The Arcadia **stool**, Eichholtz at House of Isabella, would work here. Vintage **lantern**; source similar at Vinterior



MAIN BEDROOM
Crown moulding was set slightly further into the room to allow a seam for the curtains. Tamworth Check **rug**, Ralph Lauren. Griffith **chandelier**, Arteriors. Custom Wabi sabi **art**. **Walls in** Accessible Beige, Sherwin-Williams

Q&A Autumn Oser

The designer shares her style inspiration

GREATEST SUCCESS The kitchen – for so many reasons it felt like it ticked all the boxes of what the clients were dreaming of.

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT Changing the stair rods from the original more elaborate ones to a simpler, cleaner design while retaining the curved rail.

BIGGEST INDULGENCE Definitely making the structural openings and moving the kitchen into the former dining room.

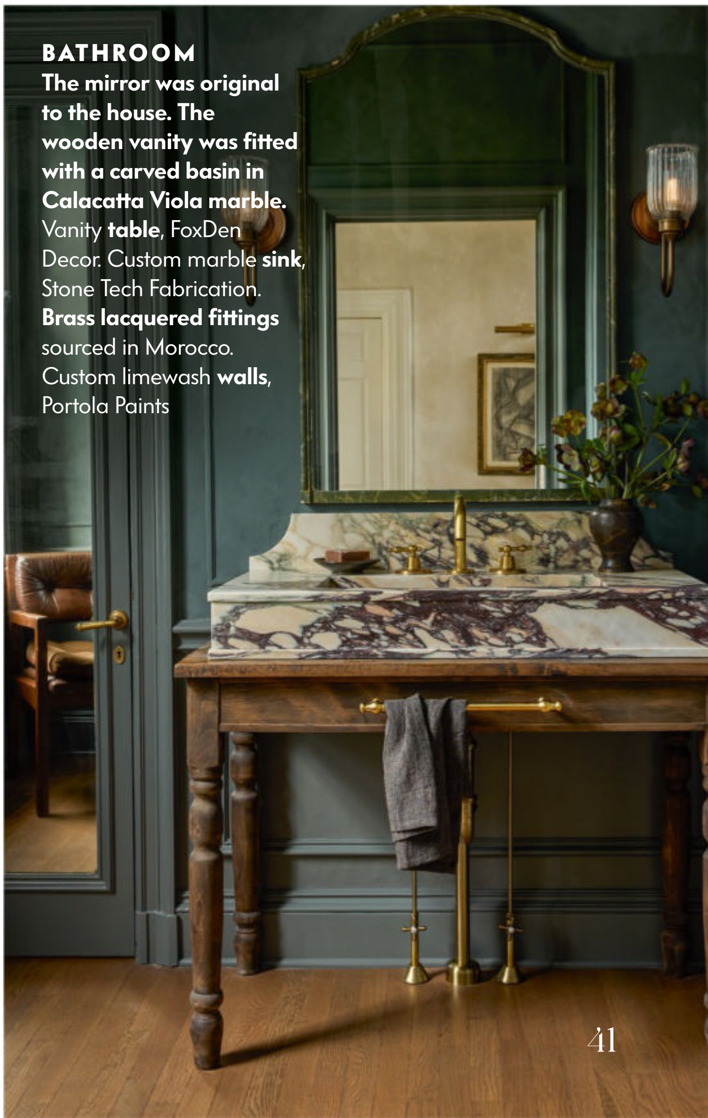
SECRET ADDRESS Robins Egg Gallery in Bucks County. It's where we source most of our vintage art from.

NEXT GAME CHANGER IN INTERIOR DESIGN Leaning into individuality and personal quirks.

LAST PODCAST DOWNLOADED The Interior Collective. The host Anastasia Casey asks extremely helpful questions.

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS Soulful, iconic, eclectic.

DESIGN HERO Kelly Wearstler for breaking the rules and making her own.



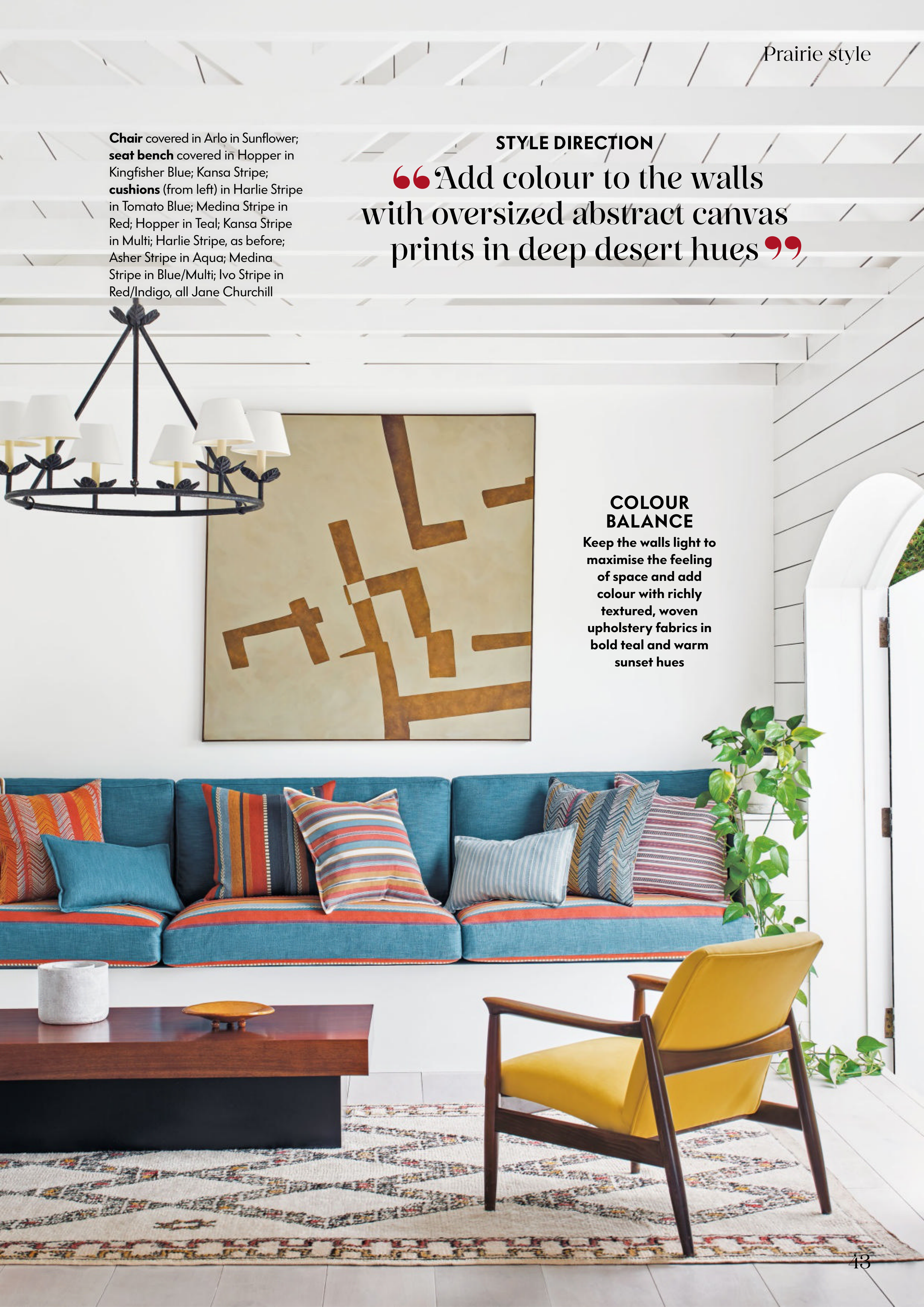
BATHROOM
The mirror was original to the house. The wooden vanity was fitted with a carved basin in Calacatta Viola marble. Vanity **table**, FoxDen Decor. Custom marble **sink**, Stone Tech Fabrication. **Brass lacquered fittings** sourced in Morocco. Custom limewash **walls**, Portola Paints

Contrasting warm-toned wooden furniture and woven accessories with minimalist architecture is a key trait of this mid-century-inspired look. Blenheim **sideboard**; **candelabra**; Terracotta **jug vase**, all M&S x Fired Earth. Woven **trinket box**; striped **rug**, all M&S

Prairie style

Trends come and go, but here's how to give this look timeless appeal

WORDS CHARLOTTE BOYD



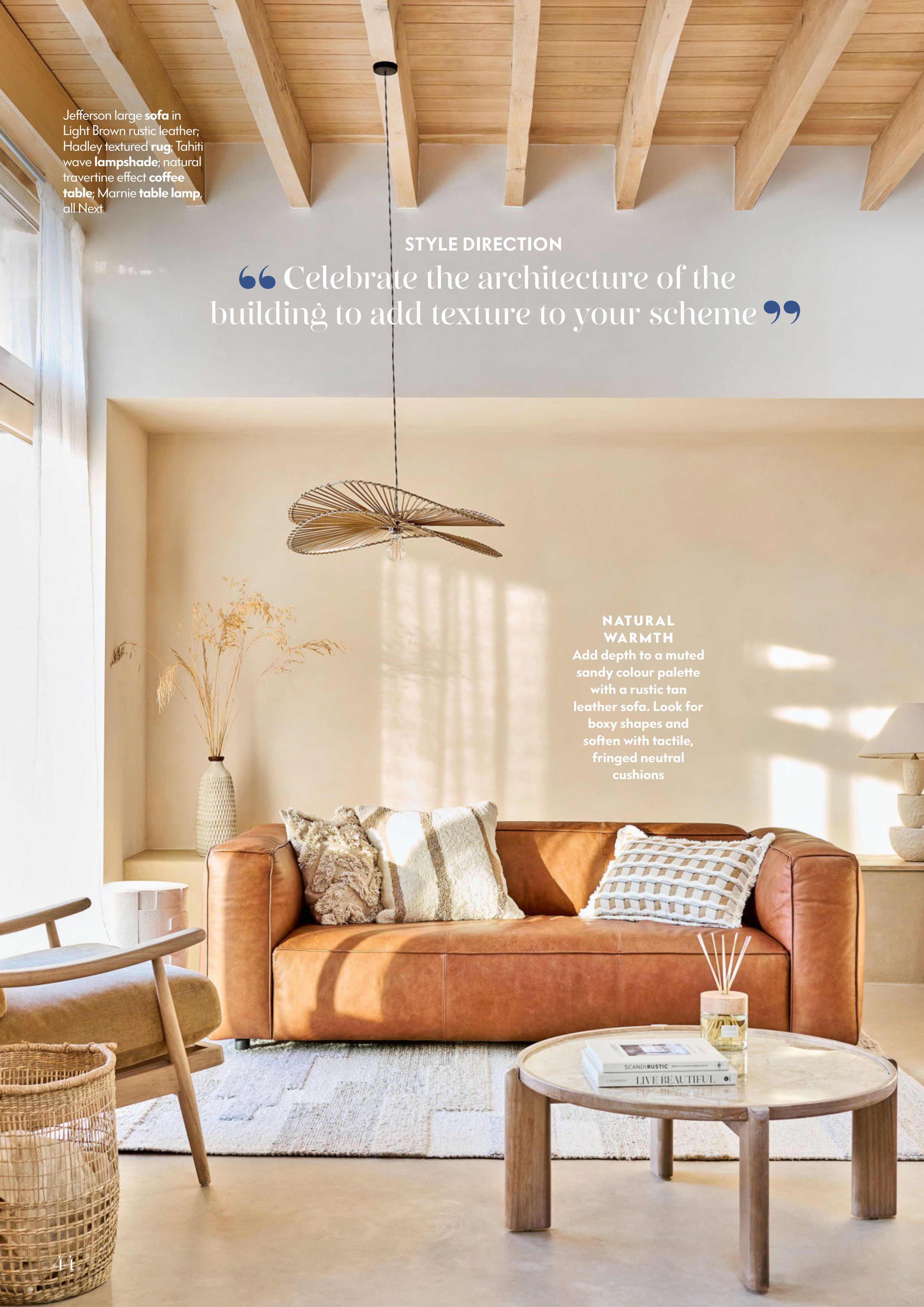
Chair covered in Arlo in Sunflower; **seat bench** covered in Hopper in Kingfisher Blue; Kansa Stripe; **cushions** (from left) in Harlie Stripe in Tomato Blue; Medina Stripe in Red; Hopper in Teal; Kansa Stripe in Multi; Harlie Stripe, as before; Asher Stripe in Aqua; Medina Stripe in Blue/Multi; Ivo Stripe in Red/Indigo, all Jane Churchill

STYLE DIRECTION

> “Add colour to the walls with oversized abstract canvas prints in deep desert hues”

COLOUR BALANCE

Keep the walls light to maximise the feeling of space and add colour with richly textured, woven upholstery fabrics in bold teal and warm sunset hues



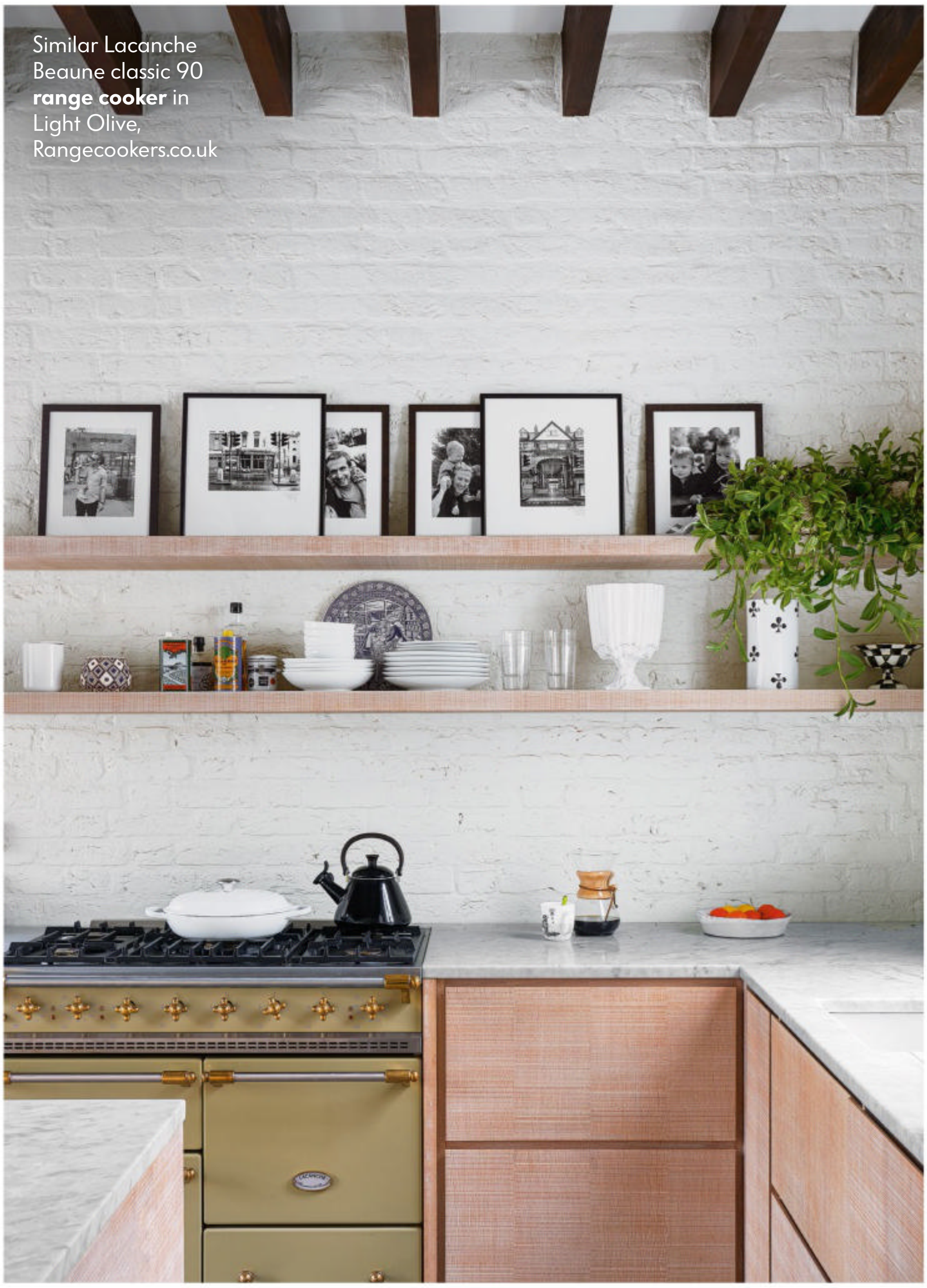
Jefferson large **sofa** in Light Brown rustic leather; Hadley textured **rug**; Tahiti wave **lampshade**; natural travertine effect **coffee table**; Marnie **table lamp**, all Next

STYLE DIRECTION

> “Celebrate the architecture of the building to add texture to your scheme”

NATURAL WARMTH

Add depth to a muted sandy colour palette with a rustic tan leather sofa. Look for boxy shapes and soften with tactile, fringed neutral cushions



Similar Lacanche Beaune classic 90 **range cooker** in Light Olive, Rangecookers.co.uk

BE INSPIRED BY NATURE

For this look let the wild prairie landscape be the starting point for both your colour scheme and the textures you use. Combine cool cactus green with warm earthy neutrals, dusky sunset tones and night sky blue. Wooden furniture and floors, soft leather sofas and sisal and jute rugs will add a rustic element.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

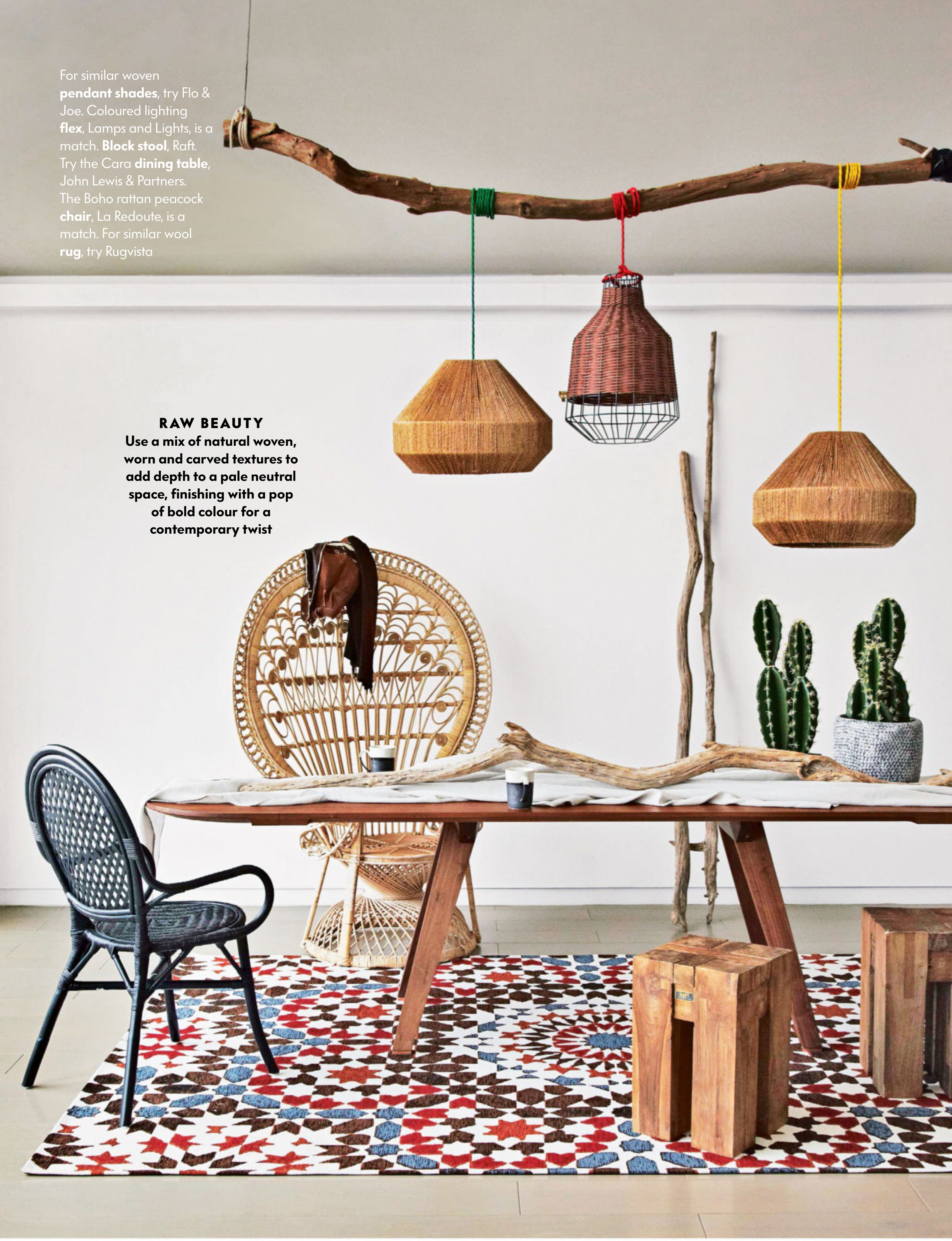
Prairie-style rooms are as open and light-filled as the landscape itself. Stick to pale stone hues or off-white for the walls, adding blocks of rich colour with abstract artwork or textured wall hangings. Avoid heavy curtains and choose delicate sheer fabrics to hang at the window, to gently filter the light.

PICK PERFECT PATTERNS

Add colour and interest by layering up simple striped and Aztec-inspired rugs over wood or tiled floors, while geometric throws and woven cushions add interest to beds and sofas. Artisan-style embroidered cushions in block patterns will bring a handcrafted look to plain upholstery and bed linen.

TRY MODERN SHAPES

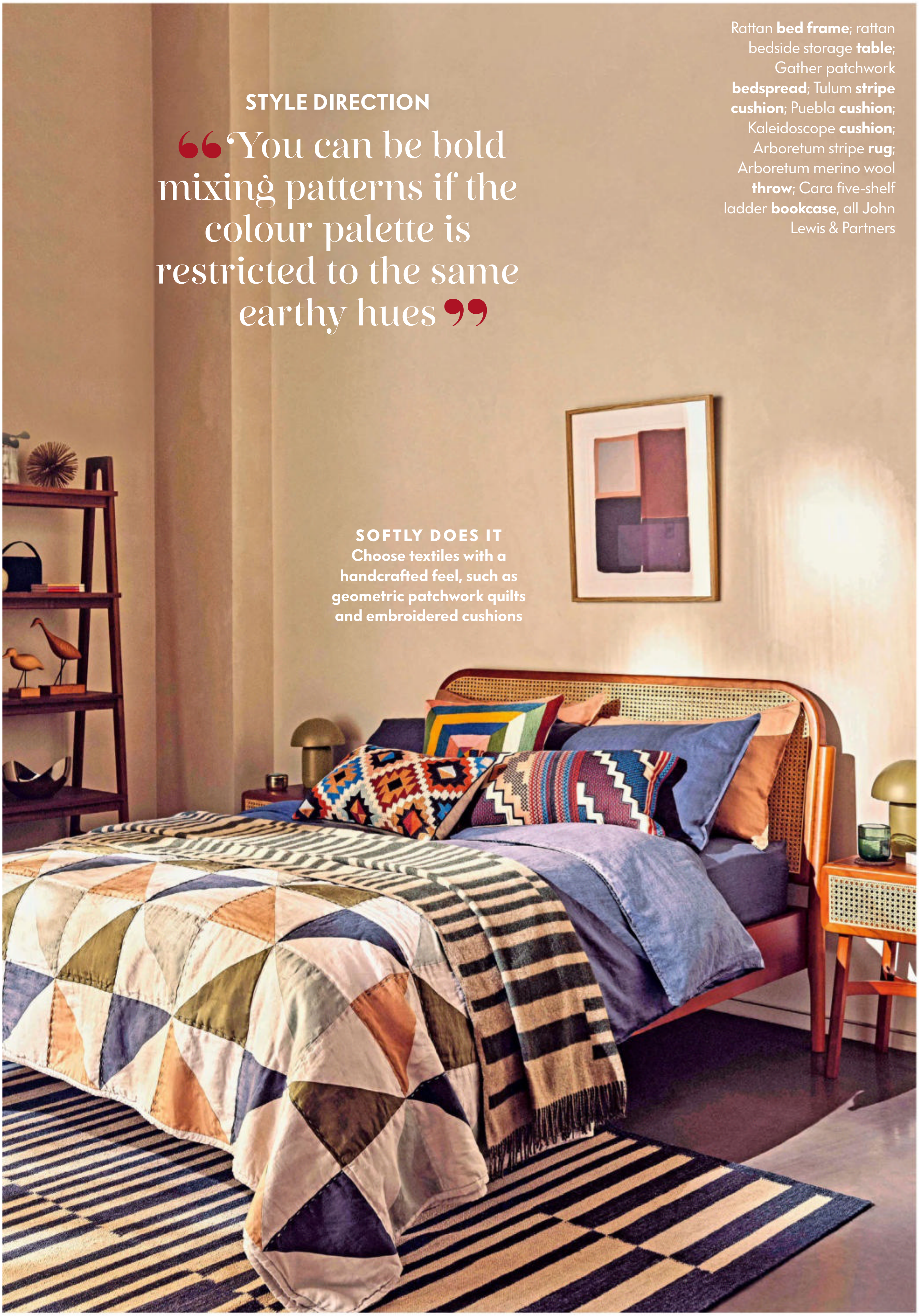
Contrast artisan-inspired fabrics with contemporary boxy sofas and mid-century style chairs, tables and beds to create a modern rustic feel. Wood finishes are key to this look as they add an organic feel, but the furniture shapes are pared-back and functional without unnecessary embellishments.



For similar woven **pendant shades**, try Flo & Joe. Coloured lighting **flex**, Lamps and Lights, is a match. **Block stool**, Raft. Try the Cara **dining table**, John Lewis & Partners. The Boho rattan peacock **chair**, La Redoute, is a match. For similar wool **rug**, try Rugvista

RAW BEAUTY

Use a mix of natural woven, worn and carved textures to add depth to a pale neutral space, finishing with a pop of bold colour for a contemporary twist



STYLE DIRECTION

> ‘You can be bold mixing patterns if the colour palette is restricted to the same earthy hues’

Rattan **bed frame**; rattan bedside storage **table**; Gather patchwork **bedspread**; Tulum **stripe cushion**; Puebla **cushion**; Kaleidoscope **cushion**; Arboretum stripe **rug**; Arboretum merino wool **throw**; Cara five-shelf ladder **bookcase**, all John Lewis & Partners

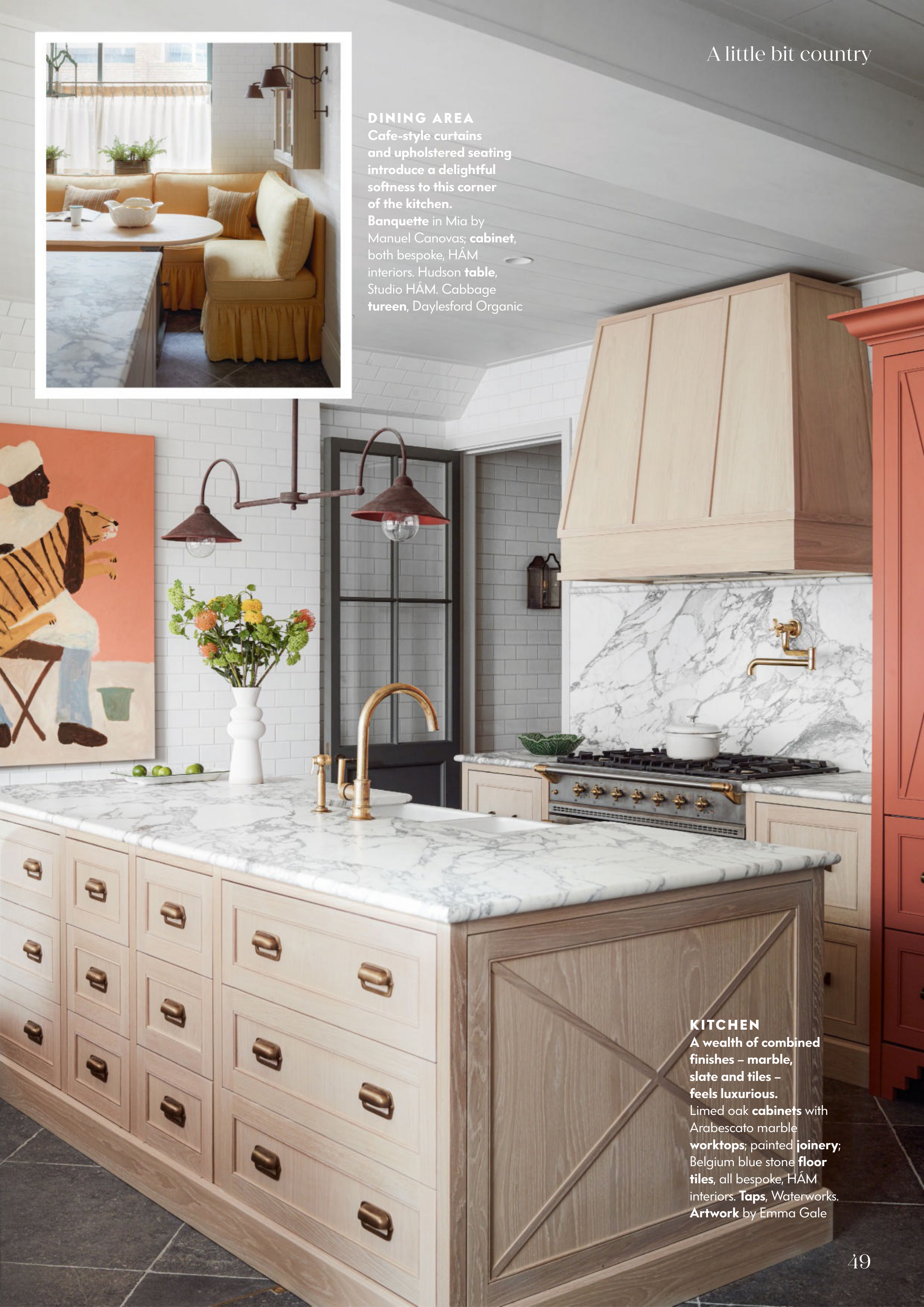
SOFTLY DOES IT
Choose textiles with a handcrafted feel, such as geometric patchwork quilts and embroidered cushions

FEATURE CHARLOTTE BOYD **PHOTOGRAPHS** FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM/JAMES MERRELL; JONATHAN WEST

A little bit country

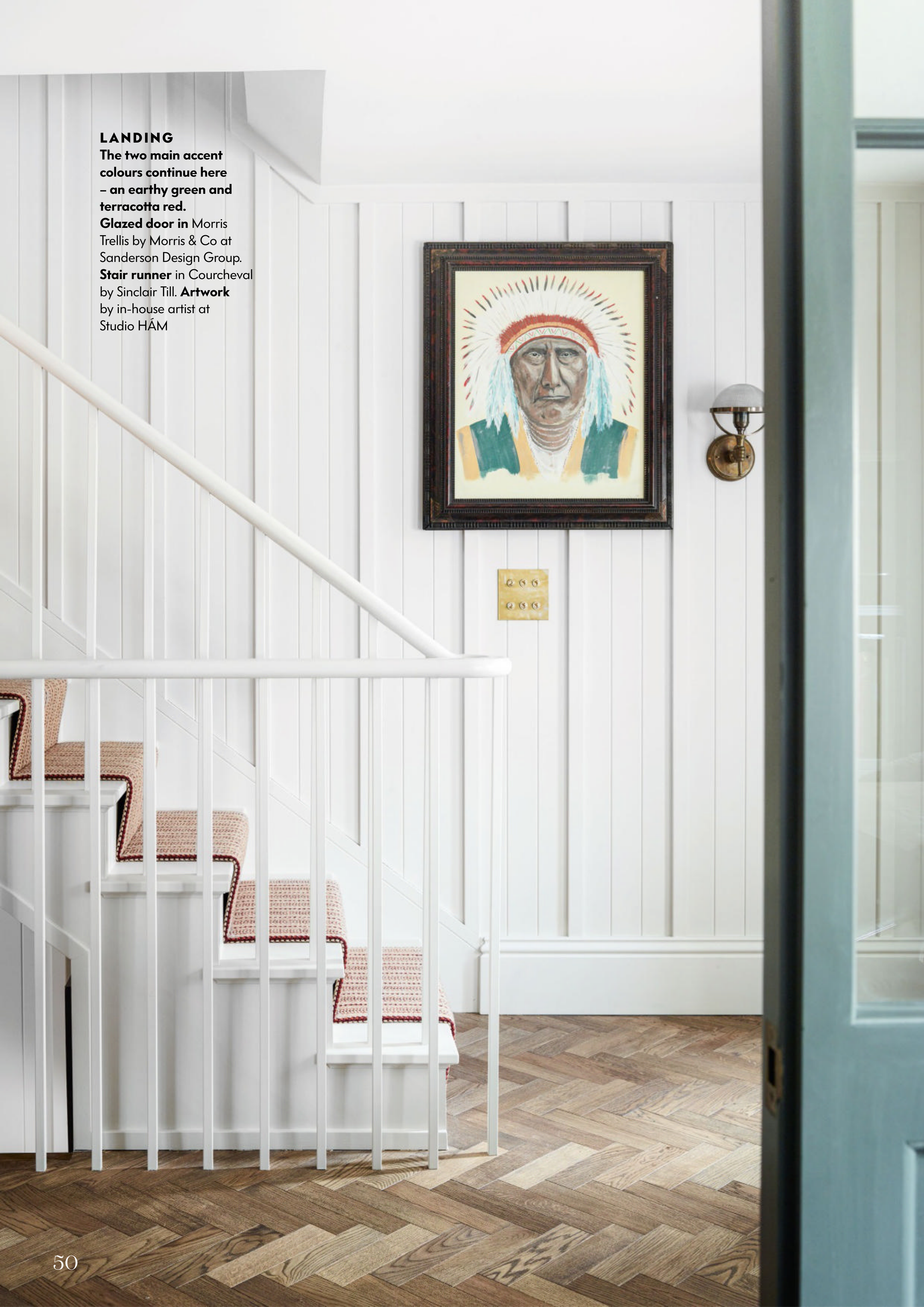
The thoroughly modern rustic-luxe look HÁM interiors has brought to this London mews house gives a nod to the American West

WORDS & STYLING MARY WEAVER **PHOTOGRAPHY** MARY WADSWORTH



DINING AREA
Cafe-style curtains and upholstered seating introduce a delightful softness to this corner of the kitchen. **Banquette** in Mia by Manuel Canovas; **cabinet**, both bespoke, HÁM interiors. Hudson **table**, Studio HÁM. Cabbage **tureen**, Daylesford Organic

KITCHEN
A wealth of combined finishes – marble, slate and tiles – feels luxurious. Limed oak **cabinets** with Arabescato marble **worktops**; painted **joinery**; Belgium blue stone **floor tiles**, all bespoke, HÁM interiors. **Taps**, Waterworks. **Artwork** by Emma Gale



LANDING
The two main accent colours continue here – an earthy green and terracotta red.
Glazed door in Morris Trellis by Morris & Co at Sanderson Design Group. **Stair runner** in Courcheval by Sinclair Till. **Artwork** by in-house artist at Studio HÁM

The key to good design is when the current incarnation of a home feels authentic, as if it was always meant to be that way. And the design should honour the bones of the property and bring it alive to match the personality and lifestyle of its owners. If you were looking for an exemplary example, this 1860s mews house in west London would fit the bill. With its easy flow of space and sophisticated yet playful cabin-in-the-woods aesthetic, it sits joyfully in its skin and sends a message that happy people live here. But until a year ago the house was so out of sync with its owners, they were thinking of moving. 'They bought the house 10 years ago for its great location in buzzy Notting Hill but found its minimal, "modern box" design with no architectural detailing, no skirtings and boarded in stairs increasingly hard to live with,' says Tom Cox of HÁM interiors, who was called in on a rescue mission. The couple – she is in fashion, he works in Fin-tech (financial technology) – had seen Tom's work at a friend's house and realised the way he had translated a love of the great outdoors into a city home resonated with them. 'Like me, they are country lovers and wanted a comfortable, warm and inviting home that reflected that,' says Tom.

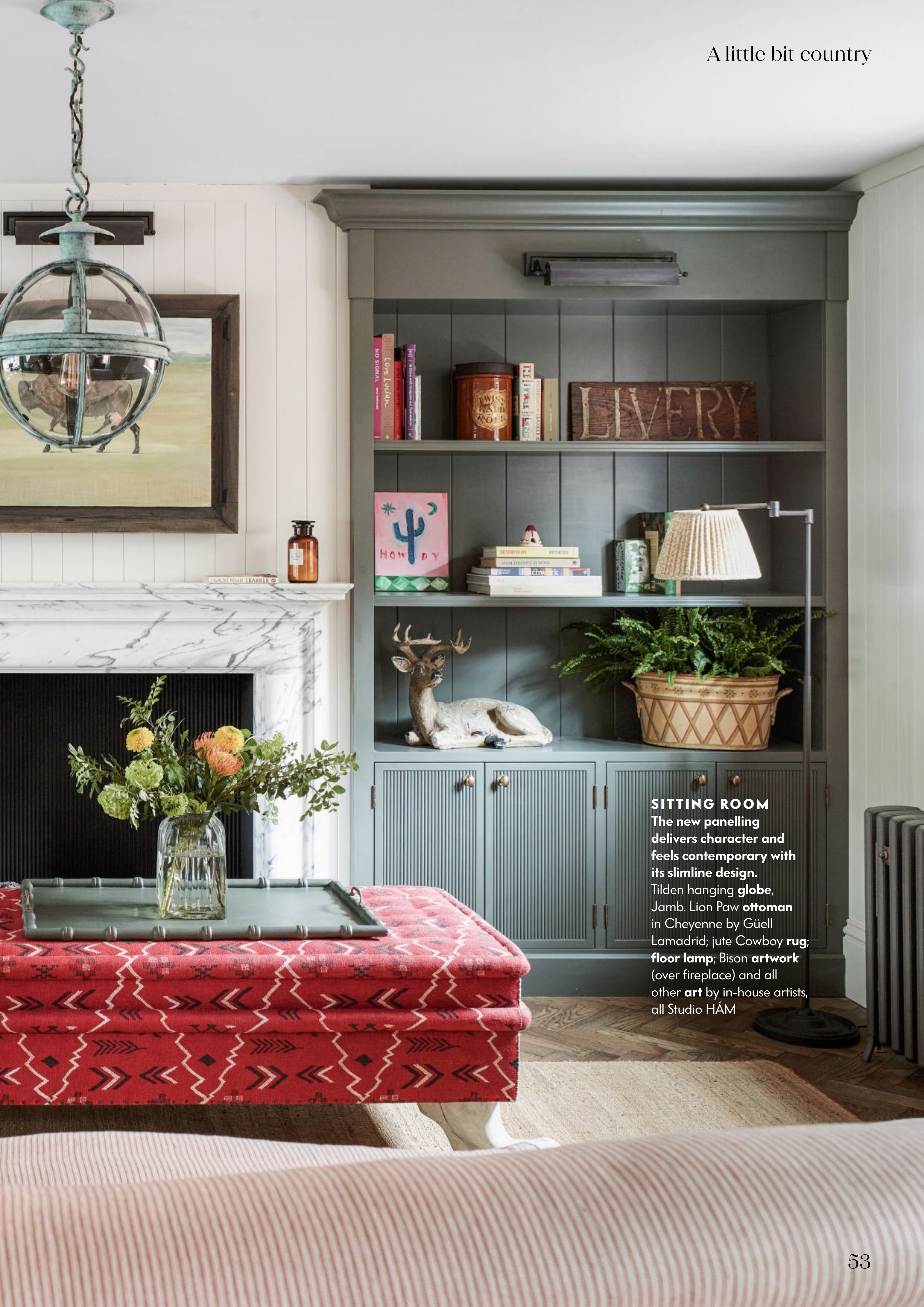
Although they remained involved, the owners who both travel for work were confident enough in HÁM to give them the keys and leave them to it. 'They gave us a lot of creative freedom and trust, which is always the dream for a designer,' says Tom, who is part of a family business along with his parents Nick and Pamela Cox and sister Kate, who worked on the decoration and soft furnishings. The practice, known for its 'updated country house style elevated for modern life', is also a maker and curator of furniture, art and antiques sold under Studio HÁM, which encouraged the couple to take the unusual step of letting go of everything from the old house and asking Tom to curate the space down to the last details. 'They are time poor because of their busy jobs and once they realised how in tune our ideas were they were actually relieved to hand the decisions over,' he says. The first priority for the new design was the kitchen, previously galley shaped and soulless, with little light, resulting in the couple avoiding spending time there. With a tight time frame of four months, HÁM avoided structural work but changed the flow of the kitchen, creating an open-plan layout with zoned areas for dining and laundry. A walk-in pantry did away with the need for wall units so the kitchen itself is the hero. Walls are tiled to encourage light to bounce around and doors are glazed, here and throughout the house. Upstairs, a glass-framed wall divides the study and the hunting-lodge-inspired sitting room with its deep sofas and Navajo-influenced textiles. American West-inspired paintings dotted around add pops of colour to the cohesive colour scheme of grounded neutrals enlivened with a palette of three shades – red, green and white – repeated on each floor. The main bedroom is cosseting, with painted timber walls and soft, nature-inspired patterned furnishings.

The framework of the building, enhanced with panelled walls, painted wood, marble-clad surfaces and textured fabrics, couldn't be more of a contrast to its stark beginnings. Now, at weekends, the owners look forward to being able to relax, disconnect, nest and hang out. And they have no plans to sell up.

■ haminteriors.com; studioham.co.uk

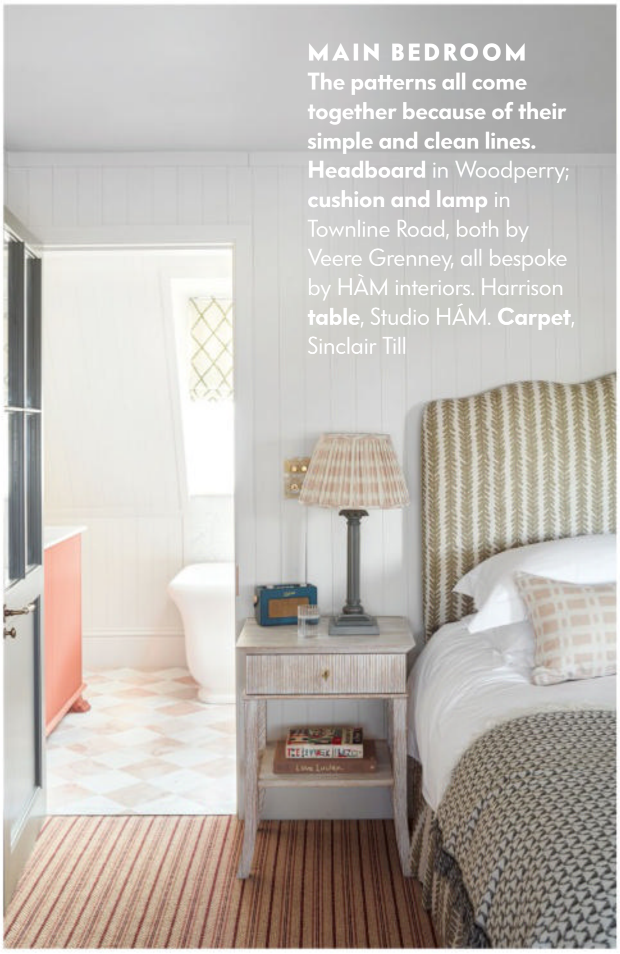
> “With its easy flow of space and sophisticated yet playful cabin-in-the-woods aesthetic, it sits joyfully in its skin and sends a message that happy people live here”

YEE-HAA!

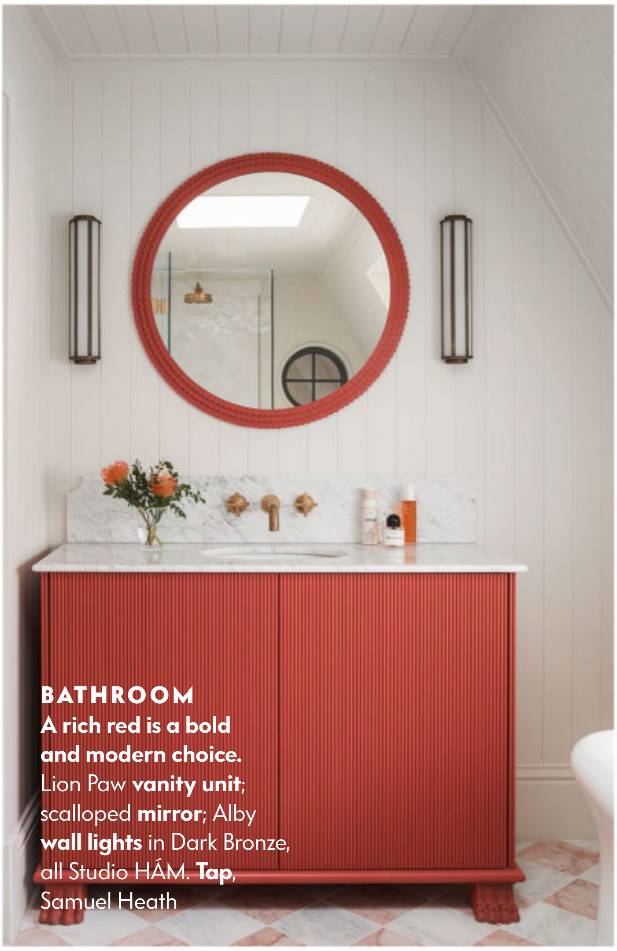


SITTING ROOM

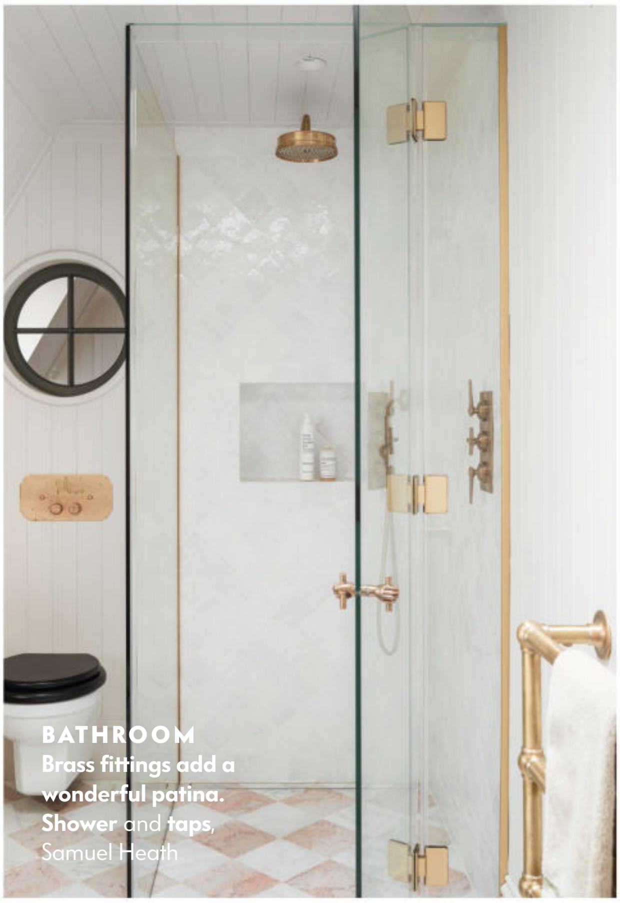
The new panelling delivers character and feels contemporary with its slimline design. Tilden hanging **globe**, Jamb. Lion Paw **ottoman** in Cheyenne by Güell Lamadrid; jute Cowboy **rug**; **floor lamp**; Bison **artwork** (over fireplace) and all other **art** by in-house artists, all Studio HÁM



MAIN BEDROOM
The patterns all come together because of their simple and clean lines. **Headboard** in Woodperry; **cushion and lamp** in Townline Road, both by Veere Grenney, all bespoke by HÀM interiors. Harrison **table**, Studio HÁM. **Carpet**, Sinclair Till



BATHROOM
A rich red is a bold and modern choice. Lion Paw **vanity unit**; scalloped **mirror**; Alby **wall lights** in Dark Bronze, all Studio HÁM. **Tap**, Samuel Heath



BATHROOM
Brass fittings add a wonderful patina. **Shower** and **taps**, Samuel Heath

Q&A Tom Cox

The designer shares his style inspiration

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS Eclectic, authentic and colourful.

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT Subtle architectural details. A favourite of ours is panelling walls and ceilings – it gives a room permanence and grounds a scheme.

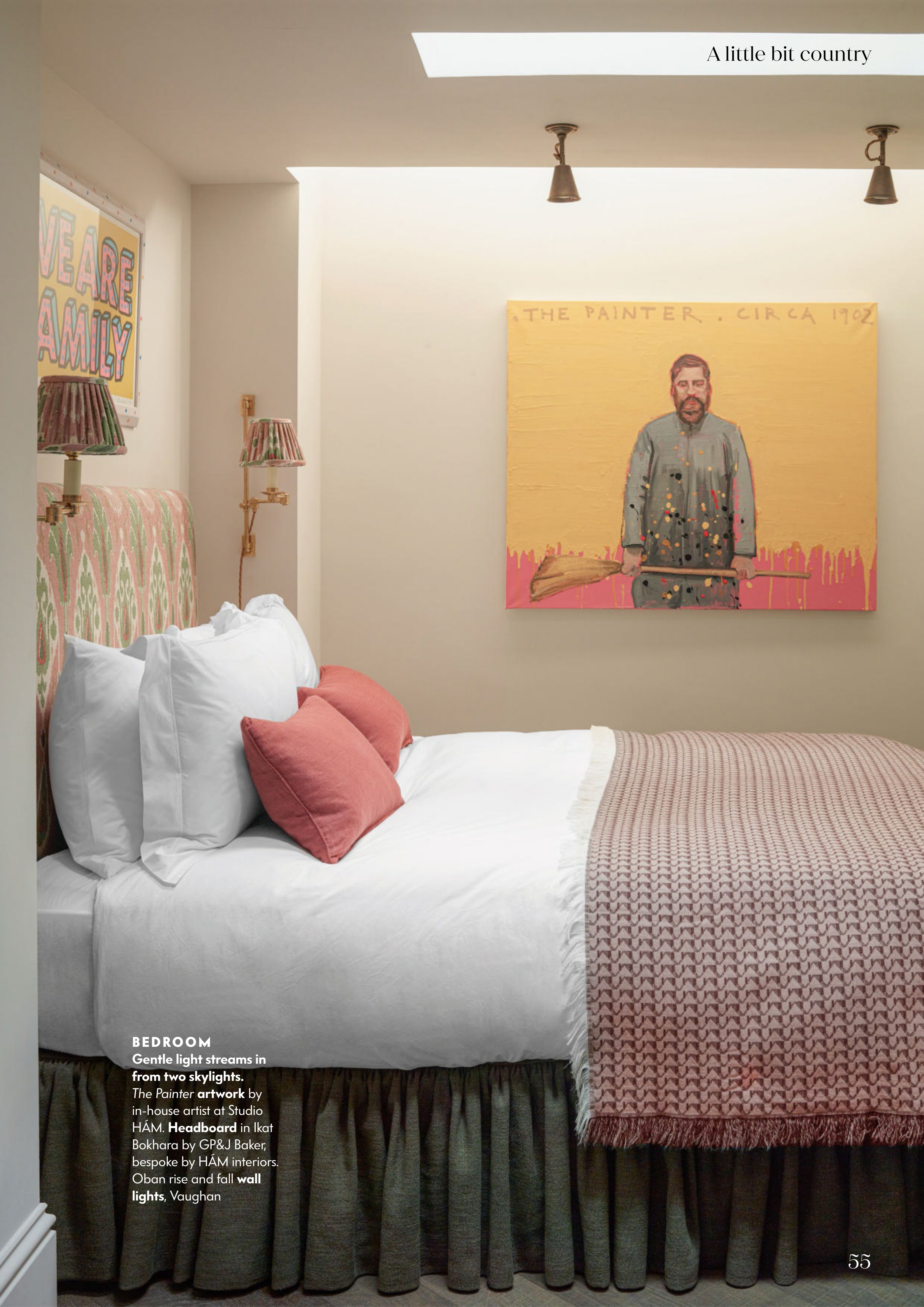
GO-TO BRAND Waterworks.

DESIGN INSPIRATION I find it in art, the landscapes I immerse myself in and the places I travel to.

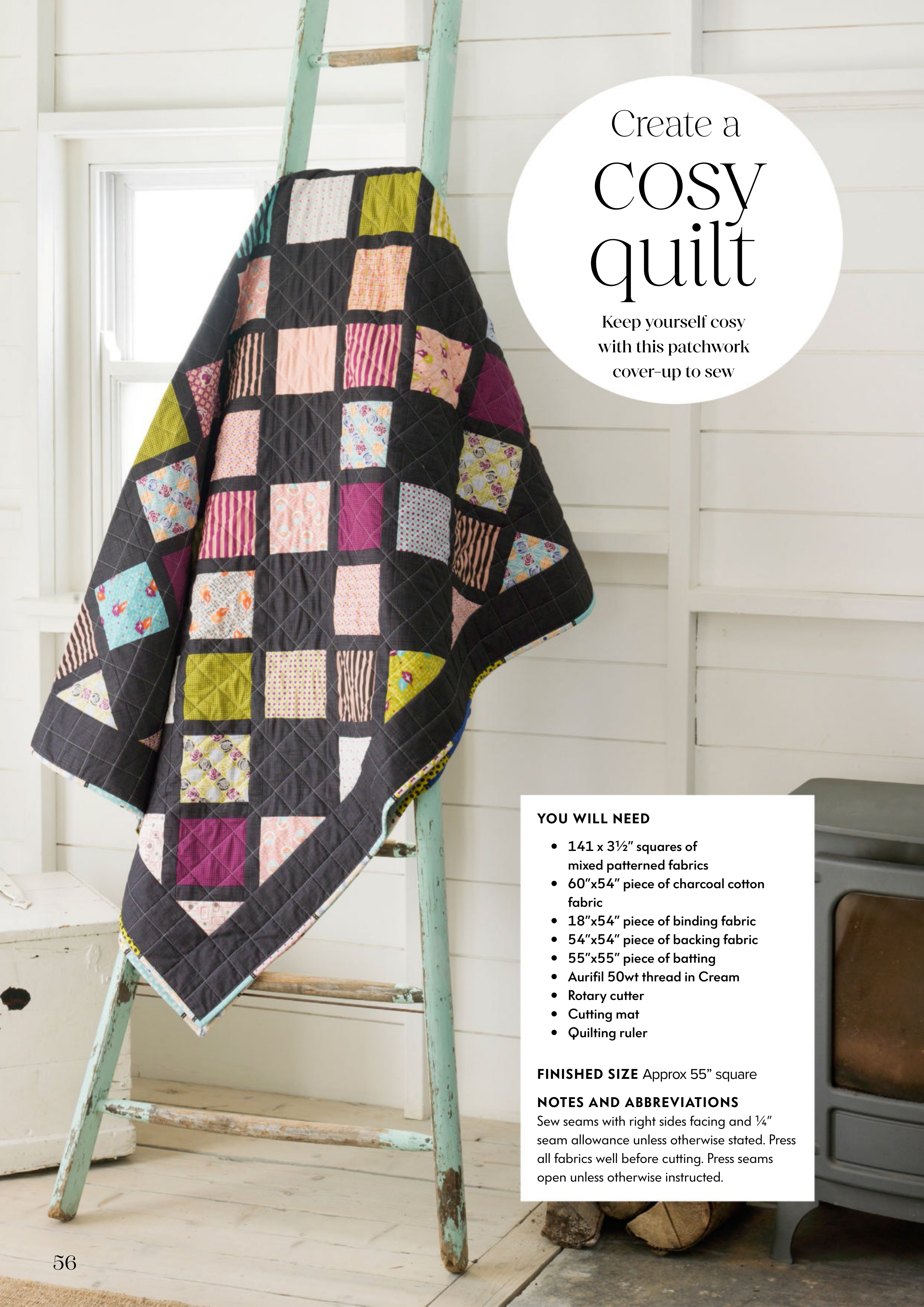
GREATEST INDULGENCE In this project it was the bespoke, hand-finished Belgian blue stone floor in the kitchen.

INDULGENCE YOU WOULD NEVER FORGO Architectural detailing – joinery, glazing and stair details, things people may overlook, are the backbone of our schemes.

NEXT PROJECT A former net loft in Cornwall. It will be available to rent as a holiday home, which will be nice as lots of our projects people don't get to see.


WE ARE
FAMILY
.THE PAINTER . CIRCA 1902

BEDROOM
Gentle light streams in from two skylights. *The Painter* **artwork** by in-house artist at Studio HÁM. **Headboard** in Ikat Bokhara by GP&J Baker, bespoke by HÁM interiors. Oban rise and fall **wall lights**, Vaughan



Create a cosy quilt

Keep yourself cosy
with this patchwork
cover-up to sew

YOU WILL NEED

- 141 x 3½" squares of mixed patterned fabrics
- 60"x54" piece of charcoal cotton fabric
- 18"x54" piece of binding fabric
- 54"x54" piece of backing fabric
- 55"x55" piece of batting
- Aurifil 50wt thread in Cream
- Rotary cutter
- Cutting mat
- Quilting ruler

FINISHED SIZE Approx 55" square

NOTES AND ABBREVIATIONS

Sew seams with right sides facing and ¼" seam allowance unless otherwise stated. Press all fabrics well before cutting. Press seams open unless otherwise instructed.

FIGURE 1

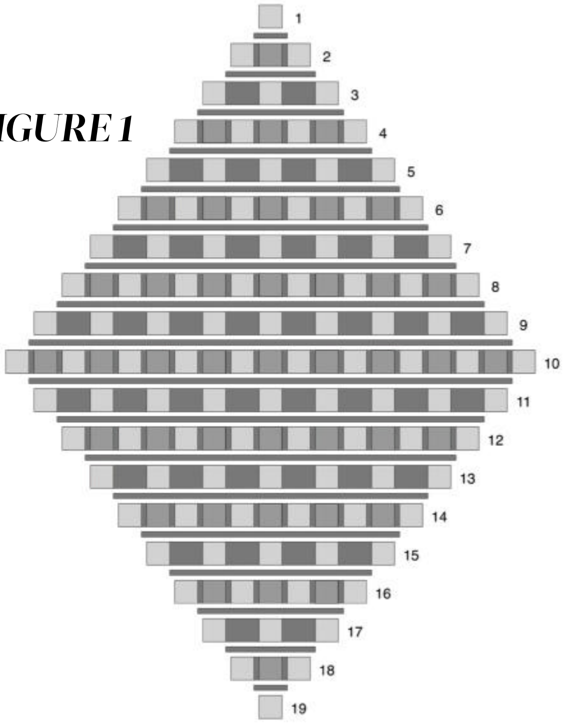


FIGURE 2

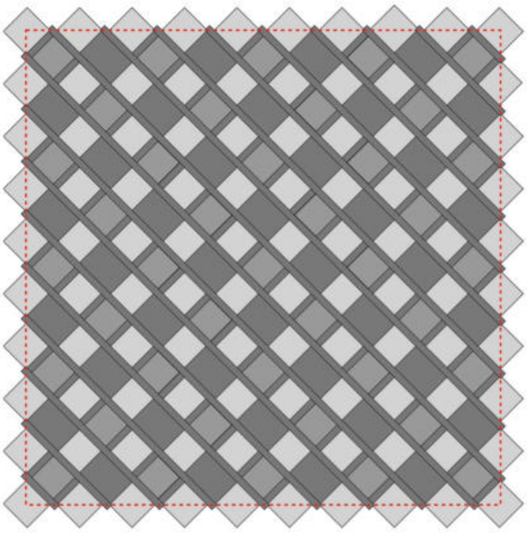
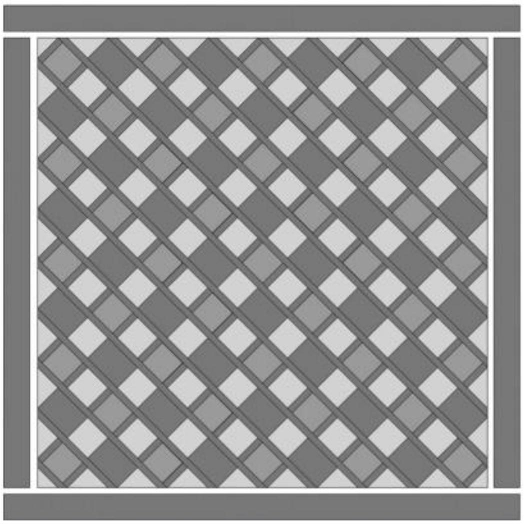


FIGURE 3



1 Cut the charcoal cotton fabric into: two 3½"x47¼" and two 3½"x53¼" strips, 40 3½"x5" rectangles and the rest into 1¼" wide strips. Cut the strips into two of each of the following lengths: 5", 13", 21", 29", 37", 45", 53", 61", 69" – you will need to join some of the strips together to achieve these lengths. Cut the rest of the 1¼" wide strips into 82 pieces measuring 3½" long.

2 Follow Figure 1 to join the strips, squares and rectangles together. First sew each individual row, either with patterned squares joined together with strips in between, or patterned squares joined together with 5"-wide charcoal rectangles on alternate rows. Then join the rows together with the strips in increasing lengths – starting with 5" working up to 69" in the middle, then back down to 5".

3 Once the rows have been stitched together to form the quilt top, follow Figure 2 to trim down the sides until you have a 47½" square.

4 Sash the sides of the quilt top with two 3½"x47¼" charcoal strips then the top and bottom with two 3½"x53¼" charcoal fabric strips to finish the quilt top, using Figure 3 as a guide.

5 Make a quilt sandwich from the quilt back, the wadding and the quilt top and baste together.

6 Quilt as desired – this quilt has been finished with a diagonal cross-hatch of lines 2" apart using contrasting thread. Trim away excess backing and wadding.

7 Cut the binding fabric into seven 2½"x54" strips. Sew the strips together end-to-end using straight or diagonal seams as preferred and press in half along the length with wrong sides together.

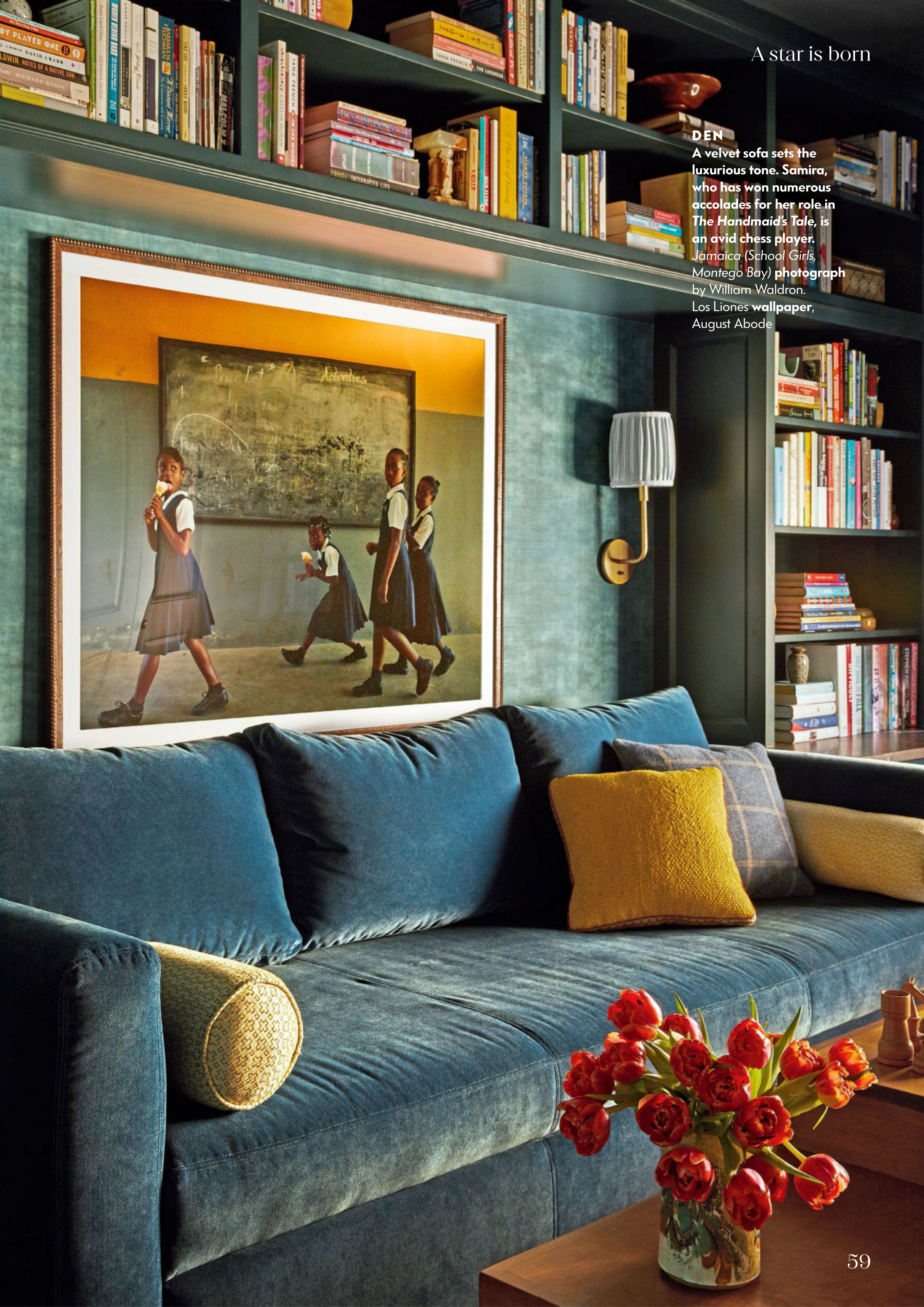
8 Pin the raw edge of the binding to the front edge of the quilt, and sew ½" from the edge. When you reach a corner, fold the binding up at a 45-degree angle, then fold back towards the quilt, creating a mitred corner. Continue stitching until you reach the starting point, where the ends should overlap. Press the raw ends under, then sew in place. Fold the binding to the reverse of the quilt and machine-stitch in place.

HALLWAY **The geometric wallpaper creates a chic backdrop, while a fresh green leads the eye up the stairs.** Modern Stone **wallpaper** in Ecru, August Abode. **Wall** in Teresa's Green, Farrow & Ball

A star is born

Actress Samira Wiley's LA home has stepped out of the shadows and into the limelight with chic schemes that have understated drama

WORDS VIVIENNE AYERS **STYLING** LISA ROWE **PHOTOGRAPHY** SAM FROST



DEN
A velvet sofa sets the luxurious tone. Samira, who has won numerous accolades for her role in *The Handmaid's Tale*, is an avid chess player. *Jamaica (School Girls, Montego Bay)* **photograph** by William Waldron. Los Liones **wallpaper**, August Abode

SITTING ROOM
The couple, who met on the set of *Orange is the New Black,* wanted this to be a more formal yet comfortable space 'for conversation and games with friends'. **Sofa**, Lawson-Fenning. **Photograph** by Ludwig Favre

Lorna Simpson
Works on Paper
Aspen Art Museum
ALEX PRAGER

No white walls' was the key request when Stefani Stein was brought on board to transform the Los Angeles home of *Orange is the New Black* and *The Handmaid's Tale* actress Samira Wiley and producer and director Lauren Morelli. The house, which Stefani describes as 'a bit of a hodgepodge architecturally', combines elements of Spanish Revival with 1970s Californian ranch style. The couple fell in love with it for its lovely sense of flow. 'There is an openness from room to room, but it isn't fully an open concept – the rooms and spaces are still defined,' says Stefani. However, a prior renovation had stripped away much of its charm.

Having designed Samira and Lauren's previous home, Stefani worked closely with the couple again and soon established their 'strong desire for colour and comfort, for a dichotomy of classic and contemporary mingling together and for lots of added depth and detail'.

Colour was key to the aesthetic, with the palette transitioning from room to room. 'Infusion of colour is Lauren's happy place, while Samira leans towards calmer earthy and classic shades,' says Stefani. She chose base colours inspired by nature that lend a comforting feel, reminiscent of an older, lived-in home. 'Creating spaces that had dusty hues and earthy elements, paired with dramatic moments and cheerful accents, struck a chord for both Samira and Lauren,' Stefani adds. 'As a result of the layout, you could see two or three rooms deep from any vantage point within the home. A cardinal step in my process was thoughtfully working through the colour specifications to ensure each view felt both complementary and contrasted. I often start my designs with textiles, but for this project I considered the foundational colours of each room first.' Stefani was also mindful of keeping key features whenever possible. 'I realised that the shiplap, which had originally seemed rather uninteresting to me, could actually work with the new design direction by being painted in the same colour and finish as the walls. I wanted to centre the designs around adding to the spaces rather than subtracting from them.'

The house felt as though it was lacking carpentry and joinery, so Stefani cased the bare openings between the rooms, which provided a sense of continuity and enabled her to make distinct colour transitions. She also designed custom bookshelves and storage to house the couple's impressive collection of tomes.

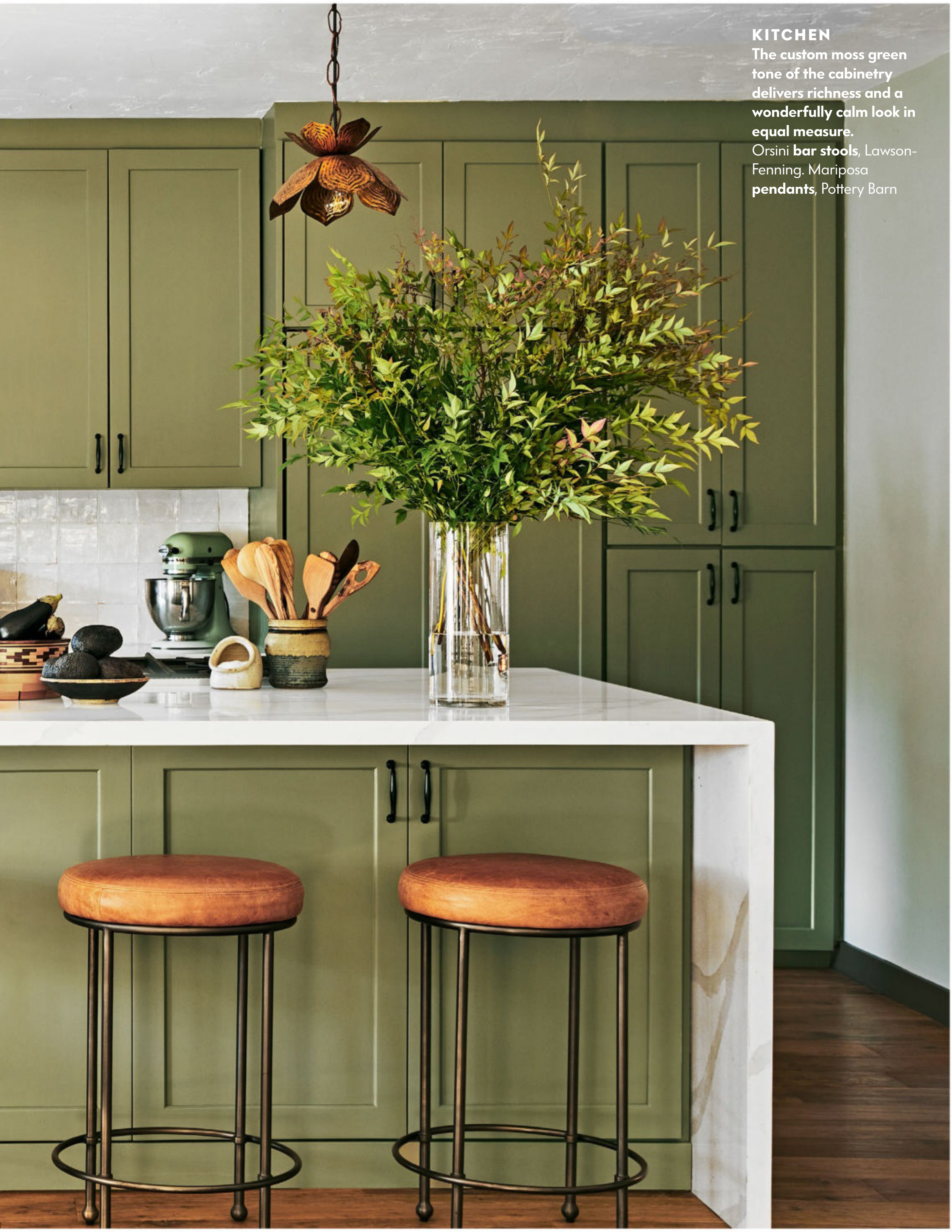
'The home was missing the thoughtful touches that make it special too,' says Stefani. Some blonde wooden elements were replaced with solid walnut in a hand-aged finish, while other surfaces feature more dramatic options such as marble and handmade tiles. Vintage lighting was introduced for extra character, as well as custom lighting. Furnishings meander from modernist to antique, with a sprinkling of both vintage and statement items to keep things fresh and unexpected.

'I love learning the little nuances of what makes each client individual,' says Stefani, 'exploring what home and sanctuary mean to them and what will make the space the story of its inhabitants.'

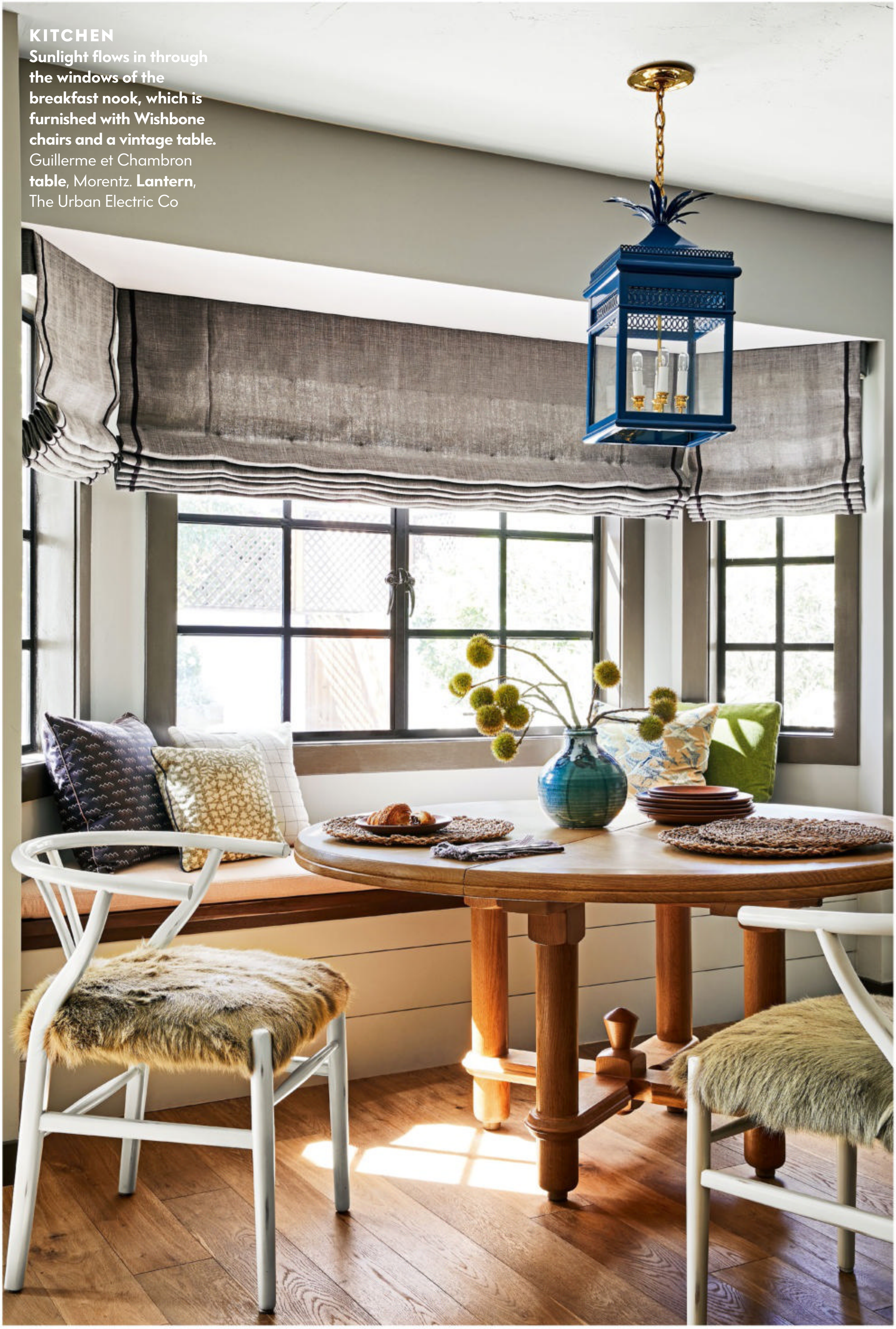
- Interior design, stefanistein.com; landscape design, wildfloradesignstudio.com

> “Creating spaces with earthy elements, dramatic moments and cheerful accents struck a chord with both Samira and Lauren”

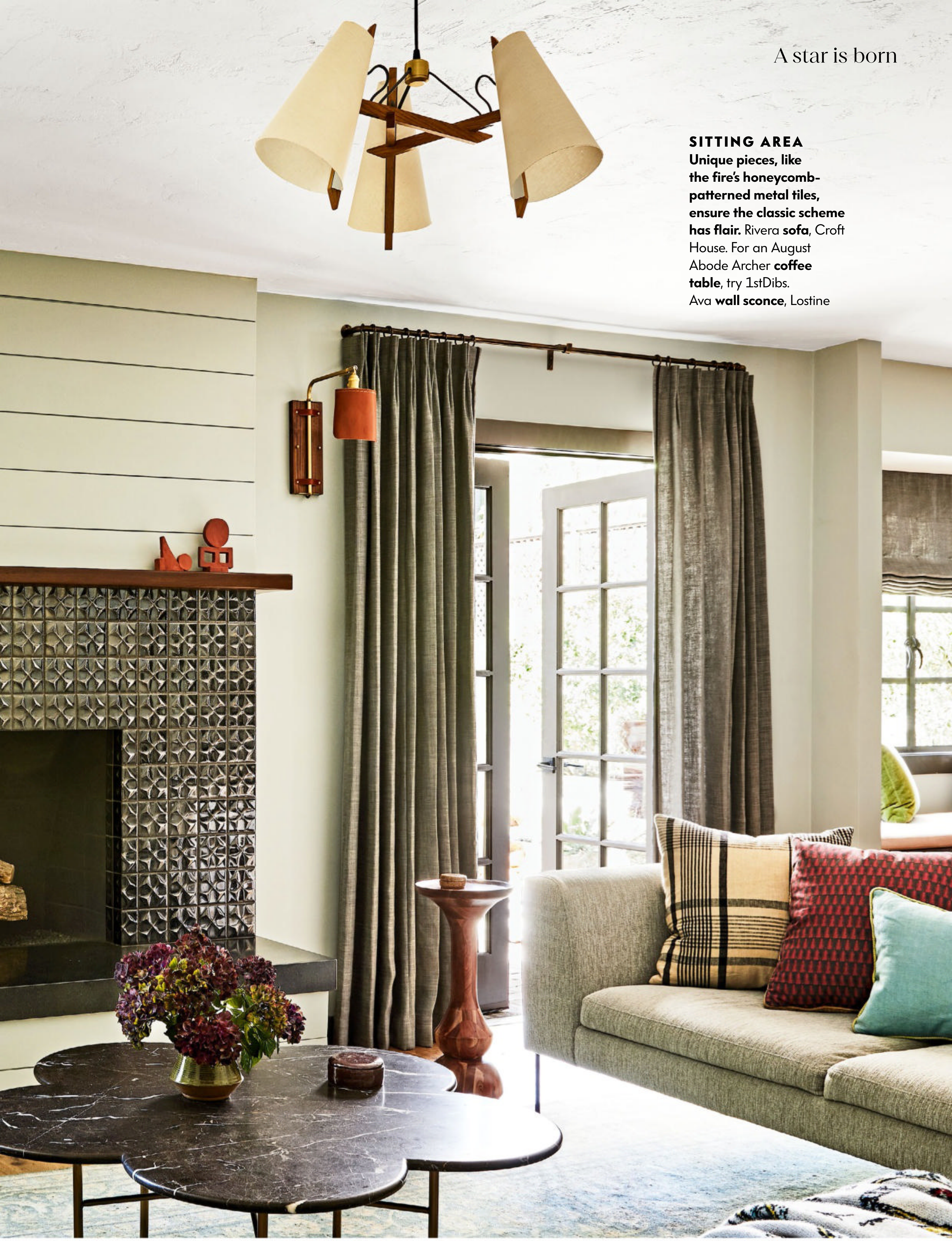
COCKTAIL CODEX
ad hoc at home
OTTOLENGHI
FLAVOR
GJELINA
NIGHT + MARKET
TARTINE
Small



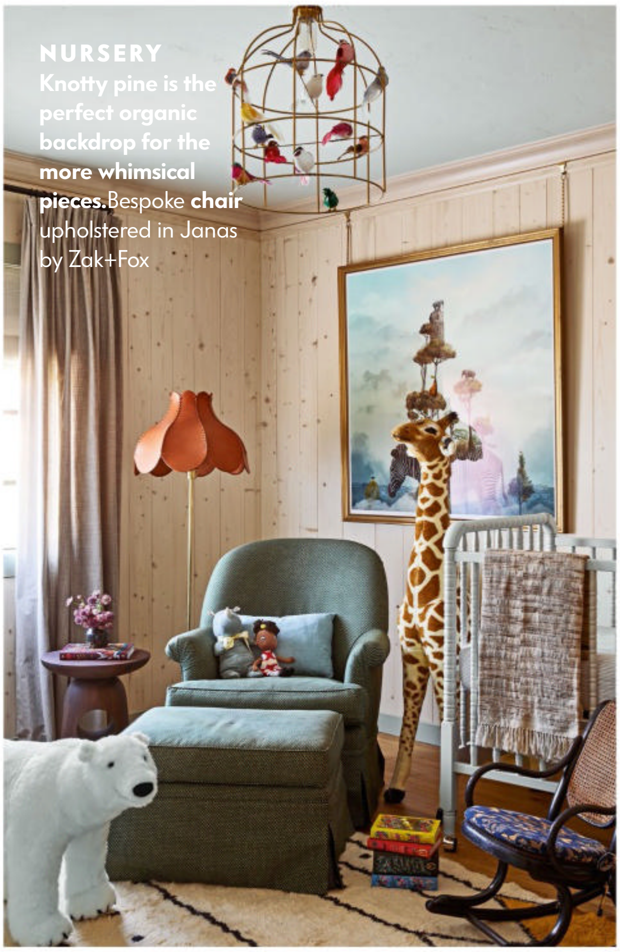
KITCHEN
The custom moss green tone of the cabinetry delivers richness and a wonderfully calm look in equal measure.
Orsini **bar stools**, Lawson-Fenning. Mariposa **pendants**, Pottery Barn



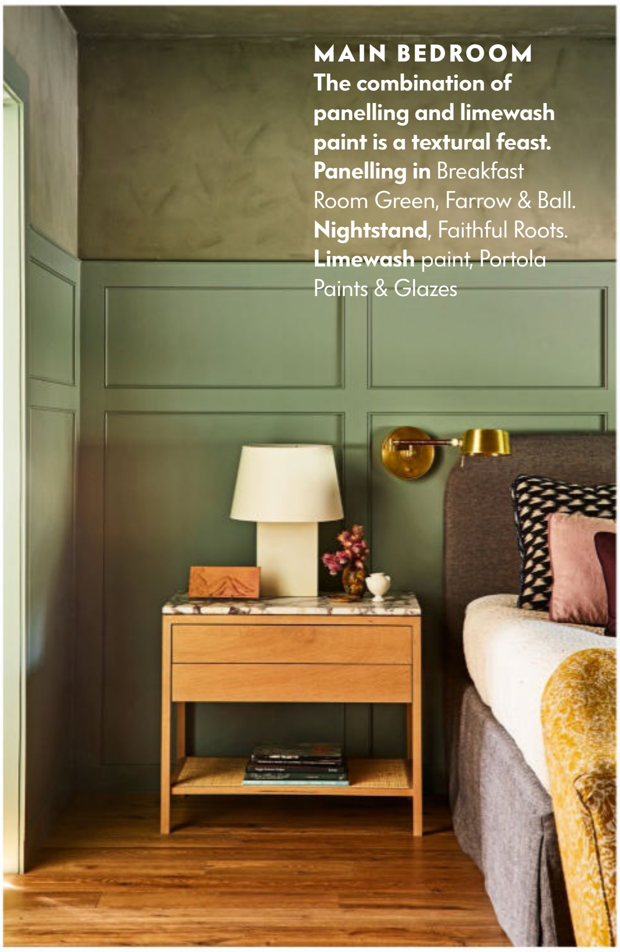
KITCHEN
Sunlight flows in through the windows of the breakfast nook, which is furnished with Wishbone chairs and a vintage table. Guillerme et Chambron **table**, Morentz. **Lantern**, The Urban Electric Co



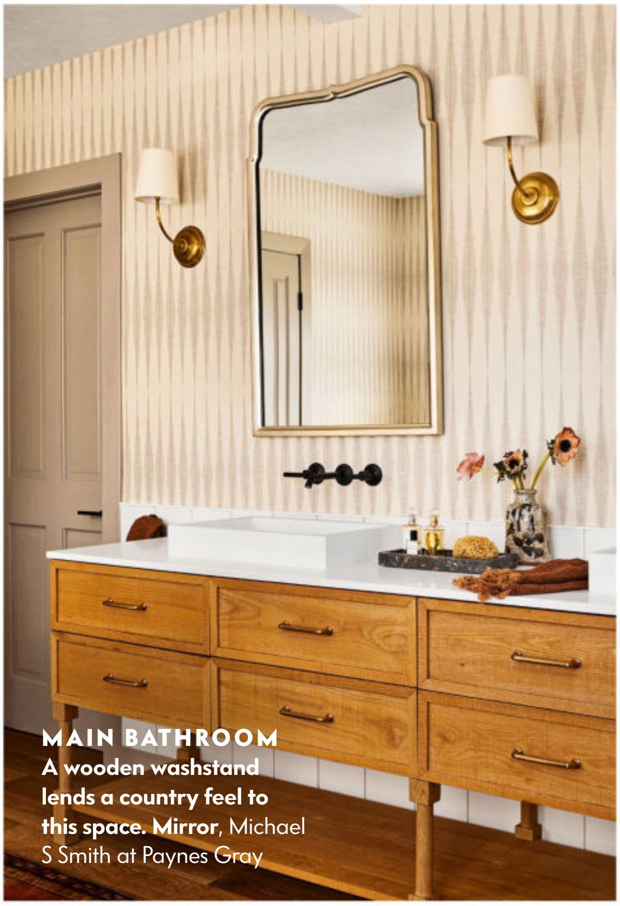
SITTING AREA
Unique pieces, like the fire's honeycomb-patterned metal tiles, ensure the classic scheme has flair. Rivera **sofa**, Croft House. For an August Abode Archer **coffee table**, try 1stDibs. Ava **wall sconce**, Lostine



NURSERY
Knotty pine is the perfect organic backdrop for the more whimsical pieces. Bespoke **chair** upholstered in Janas by Zak+Fox



MAIN BEDROOM
The combination of panelling and limewash paint is a textural feast. Panelling in Breakfast Room Green, Farrow & Ball. **Nightstand**, Faithful Roots. **Limewash** paint, Portola Paints & Glazes



MAIN BATHROOM
A wooden washstand lends a country feel to this space. Mirror, Michael S Smith at Paynes Gray

Q&A Stefani Stein

The designer shares her style inspiration

GO-TO COLOUR I'm partial to green, which may be quite obvious from this project.

SECRET ADDRESS I adore Martin & Brockett, an off-the-beaten-path shop here in LA. It has its own furniture designs, paired with a fantastic curation of vintage finds and contemporary art.

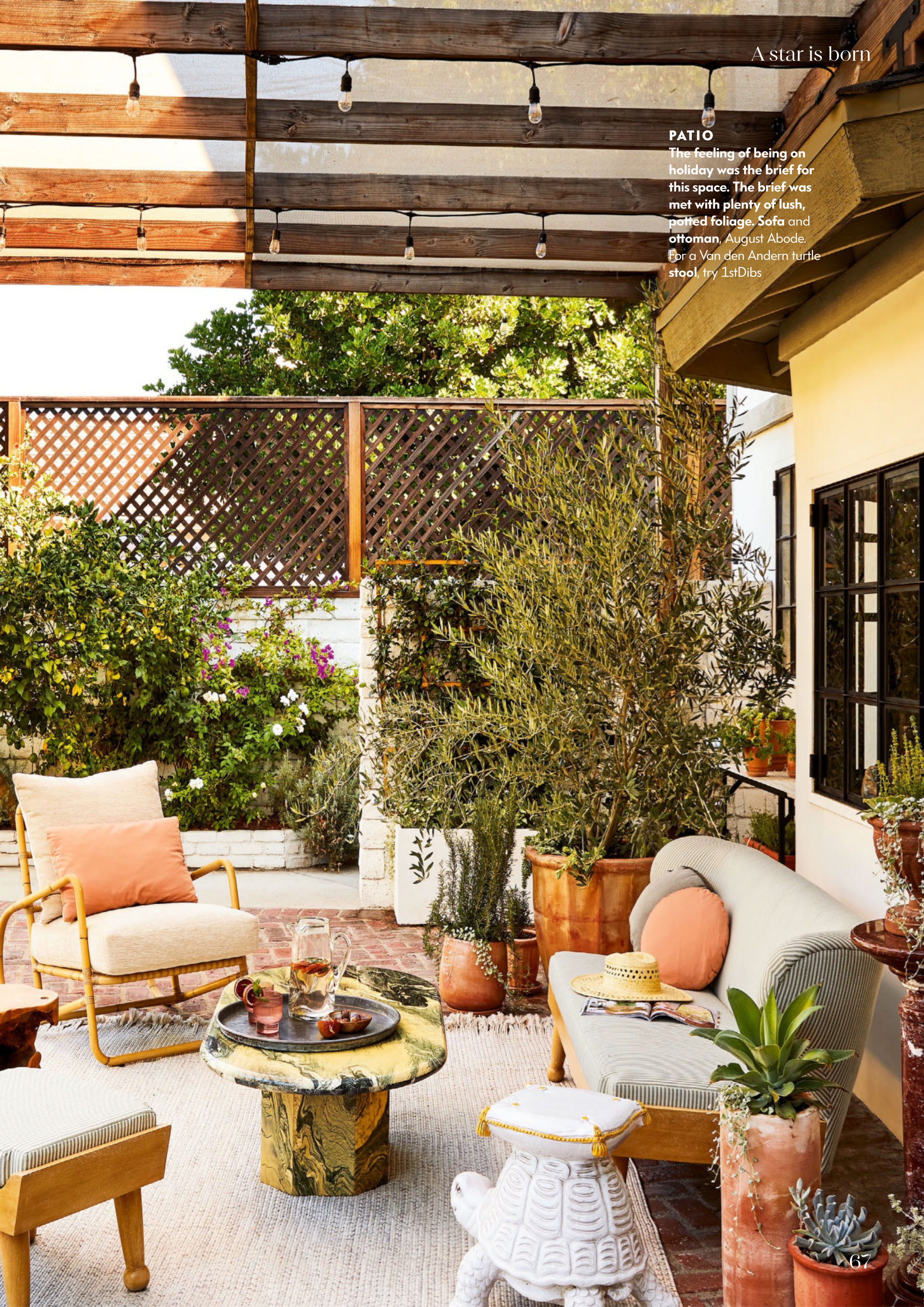
BIGGEST INDULGENCE Where to start? I think the French breakfast table, Jason Craighead art and Archer marble coffee table are all standouts.

FAVOURITE DESIGNER/BRAND
I'm rather partial to August Abode.

INSPIRATION SOURCE I often look to nature for ideas for my designs.

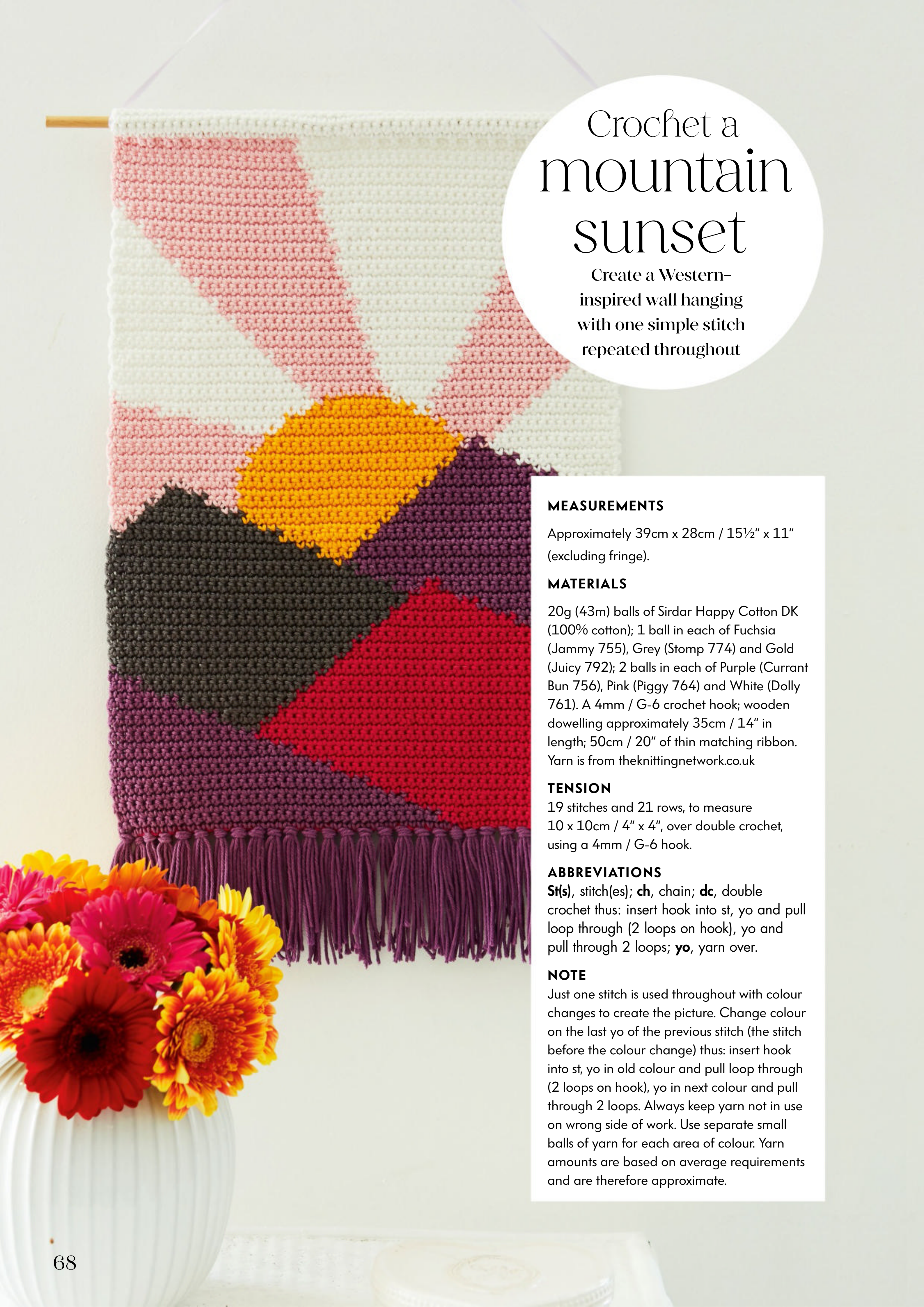
DESIGN HERO I've long admired the work of Albert Hadley. As for current designers, I'm always surprised and delighted by Billy Cotton's interiors.

OBJECT YOU WILL NEVER PART WITH My lovely vintage celadon crackle-glaze Marbro lamp with a bas relief dragon peeking around the top will always be special to me.



PATIO

The feeling of being on holiday was the brief for this space. The brief was met with plenty of lush, potted foliage. Sofa and **ottoman**, August Abode. For a Van den Andern turtle **stool**, try 1stDibs



Crochet a mountain sunset

Create a Western-inspired wall hanging with one simple stitch repeated throughout

MEASUREMENTS

Approximately 39cm x 28cm / 15½" x 11" (excluding fringe).

MATERIALS

20g (43m) balls of Sirdar Happy Cotton DK (100% cotton); 1 ball in each of Fuchsia (Jammy 755), Grey (Stomp 774) and Gold (Juicy 792); 2 balls in each of Purple (Currant Bun 756), Pink (Piggy 764) and White (Dolly 761). A 4mm / G-6 crochet hook; wooden dowelling approximately 35cm / 14" in length; 50cm / 20" of thin matching ribbon. Yarn is from theknittingnetwork.co.uk

TENSION

19 stitches and 21 rows, to measure 10 x 10cm / 4" x 4", over double crochet, using a 4mm / G-6 hook.

ABBREVIATIONS

St(s), stitch(es); **ch**, chain; **dc**, double crochet thus: insert hook into st, yo and pull loop through (2 loops on hook), yo and pull through 2 loops; **yo**, yarn over.

NOTE

Just one stitch is used throughout with colour changes to create the picture. Change colour on the last yo of the previous stitch (the stitch before the colour change) thus: insert hook into st, yo in old colour and pull loop through (2 loops on hook), yo in next colour and pull through 2 loops. Always keep yarn not in use on wrong side of work. Use separate small balls of yarn for each area of colour. Yarn amounts are based on average requirements and are therefore approximate.

MAIN PIECE

With Fuchsia, ch55.

1st row (right side): Beginning in second ch from hook, 17dc Fuchsia, 37dc Purple, turn – 54 sts.

Now continue in rows and turn work after every row.

2nd row (wrong side): 1ch (does not count as st throughout), 35dc Purple, 19dc Fuchsia.

3rd row: 1ch, 21dc Fuchsia, 33dc Purple.

4th row: 1ch, 31dc Purple, 23dc Fuchsia.

5th row: 1ch, 25dc Fuchsia, 29dc Purple.

6th row: 1ch, 27dc Purple, 27dc Fuchsia.

7th row: 1ch, 29dc Fuchsia, 25dc Purple.

8th row: 1ch, 23dc Purple, 31dc Fuchsia.

9th row: 1ch, 33dc Fuchsia, 21dc Purple.

10th row: 1ch, 19dc Purple, 35dc Fuchsia.

11th row: 1ch, 37dc Fuchsia, 17dc Purple.

12th row: 1ch, 15dc Purple, 39dc Fuchsia.

13th row: 1ch, 38dc Fuchsia, 3dc Grey, 13dc Purple.

14th row: 1ch, 11dc Purple, 6dc Grey, 37dc Fuchsia.

15th row: 1ch, 36dc Fuchsia, 9dc Grey, 9dc Purple.

16th row: 1ch, 7dc Purple, 12dc Grey, 35dc Fuchsia.

17th row: 1ch, 34dc Fuchsia, 15dc Grey, 5dc Purple.

18th row: 1ch, 3dc Purple, 18dc Grey, 33dc Fuchsia.

19th row: 1ch, 32dc Fuchsia, 21dc Grey, 1dc Purple.

20th row: 1ch, 23dc Grey, 31dc Fuchsia.

21st row: 1ch, 1dc Purple, 29dc Fuchsia, 24dc Grey.

22nd row: 1ch, 25dc Grey, 26dc Fuchsia, 3dc Purple.

23rd row: 1ch, 5dc Purple, 23dc Fuchsia, 26dc Grey.

24th row: 1ch, 27dc Grey, 20dc Fuchsia, 7dc Purple.

25th row: 1ch, 9dc Purple, 17dc Fuchsia, 28dc Grey.

26th row: 1ch, 29dc Grey, 14dc Fuchsia, 11dc Purple.

27th row: 1ch, 13dc Purple, 11dc Fuchsia, 30dc Grey.

28th row: 1ch, 31dc Grey, 8dc Fuchsia, 15dc Purple.

29th row: 1ch, 17dc Purple, 5dc Fuchsia, 32dc Grey.

30th row: 1ch, 30dc Grey, 3dc Purple, 2dc Fuchsia, 19dc Purple.

31st row: 1ch, 26dc Purple, 28dc Grey.

32nd row: 1ch, 26dc Grey, 28dc Purple.

33rd row: 1ch, 29dc Purple, 1dc Gold, 24dc Grey.

34th row: 1ch, 22dc Grey, 4dc Gold, 28dc Purple.

35th row: 1ch, 27dc Purple, 7dc Gold, 20dc Grey.

36th row: 1ch, 1dc Pink, 17dc Grey, 10dc Gold, 26dc Purple.

37th row: 1ch, 25dc Purple, 13dc Gold, 14dc Grey, 2dc Pink.

38th row: 1ch, 3dc Pink, 11dc Grey, 16dc Gold, 24dc Purple.

39th row: 1ch, 1dc White, 22dc Purple, 17dc Gold, 2dc Pink, 8dc Grey, 4dc Pink.

40th row: 1ch, 5dc Pink, 5dc Grey, 4dc Pink, 18dc Gold, 19dc Purple, 3dc White.

41st row: 1ch, 5dc White, 16dc Purple, 19dc Gold, 6dc Pink, 2dc Grey, 6dc Pink.

42nd row: 1ch, 14dc Pink, 20dc Gold, 13dc Purple, 7dc White.

43rd row: 1ch, 9dc White, 10dc Purple, 21dc Gold, 14dc Pink.

44th row: 1ch, 15dc Pink, 21dc Gold, 7dc Purple, 11dc White.

45th row: 1ch, 13dc White, 4dc Purple, 22dc Gold, 15dc Pink.

46th row: 1ch, 16dc Pink, 21dc Gold, 1dc Pink, 1dc Purple, 1dc Pink, 14dc White.

47th row: 1ch, 13dc White, 5dc Pink, 19dc Gold, 17dc Pink.

48th row: 1ch, 13dc Pink, 5dc White, 17dc Gold, 7dc Pink, 12dc White.

49th row: 1ch, 11dc White, 9dc Pink, 15dc Gold, 10dc White, 9dc Pink.

50th row: 1ch, 5dc Pink, 16dc White, 11dc Gold, 2dc White, 10dc Pink, 10dc White.

51st row: 1ch, 9dc White, 11dc Pink, 4dc White, 7dc Gold, 1dc Pink, 21dc White, 1dc Pink.

52nd row: 1ch, 21dc White, 8dc Pink, 6dc White, 11dc Pink, 8dc White.

53rd row: 1ch, 7dc White, 12dc Pink, 6dc White, 9dc Pink, 20dc White.

54th row: 1ch, 19dc White, 9dc Pink, 8dc White, 12dc Pink, 6dc White.

55th row: 1ch, 5dc White, 13dc Pink, 8dc White, 10dc Pink, 18dc White.

56th row: 1ch, 17dc White, 11dc Pink, 9dc White, 13dc Pink, 4dc White.

57th row: 1ch, 3dc White, 14dc Pink, 10dc White, 11dc Pink, 16dc White.

58th row: 1ch, 15dc White, 12dc Pink, 11dc White, 14dc Pink, 2dc White.

59th row: 1ch, 1dc White, 15dc Pink, 11dc White, 13dc Pink, 14dc White.

60th row: 1ch, 13dc White, 13dc Pink, 13dc White, 15dc Pink.

61st row: 1ch, 15dc Pink,13dc White, 14dc Pink, 12dc White.

62nd row: 1ch, 11dc White, 15dc Pink, 14dc White, 14dc Pink.

63rd row: 1ch, 14dc Pink, 15dc White, 15dc Pink, 10dc White.

64th row: 1ch, 9dc White, 16dc Pink, 16dc White, 13dc Pink.

65th row: 1ch, 13dc Pink, 16dc White, 17dc Pink, 8dc White.

66th row: 1ch, 7dc White, 17dc Pink, 18dc White, 12dc Pink.

67th row: 1ch, 12dc Pink, 18dc White, 18dc Pink, 6dc White.

68th row: 1ch, 5dc White, 19dc Pink, 19dc White, 11dc Pink.

69th row: 1ch, 11dc Pink, 20dc White, 19dc Pink, 4dc White.

70th row: 1ch, 3dc White, 20dc Pink, 21dc White, 10dc Pink.

71st row: 1ch, 10dc Pink, 21dc White, 21dc Pink, 2dc White.

72nd row: 1ch, 1dc White, 21dc Pink, 23dc White, 9dc Pink.

73rd row: 1ch, 9dc Pink, 23dc White, 22dc Pink.

74th row: 1ch, 22dc Pink, 24dc White, 8dc Pink.

75th row: 1ch, 8dc Pink, 25dc White, 21dc Pink.

76th row: 1ch, 21dc Pink, 26dc White, 7dc Pink.

77th row: 1ch, 7dc Pink, 26dc White, 21dc Pink.

78th row : 1ch, 20dc Pink, 28dc White, 6dc Pink.

79th row: 1ch, 6dc Pink, 28dc White, 20dc Pink.

80th row: 1ch, 20dc Pink, 29dc White, 5dc in Pink.

81st to 86th rows: With White, 1ch, 54dc. Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO MAKE UP

Fold the top edge down to 80th row, and with White, sew along with a running stitch to create a channel for hanging.

With Purple, cut lengths approximately 75cm / 29½" long. Fold in half, then in half again, and use crochet hook to pull the folded loop partway through a stitch at the bottom edge, then pull the ends through the loop to create a tassel. Do this in each alternate stitch along the bottom edge. Trim fringe to the same length for neatness. Use a steam iron on wrong side to block edges straight.

Insert wooden dowel into folded end and tie the ribbon to each side to create a hanger.

*YARN SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. DESIGNER: ZOE POTRAC. PHOTO: ANGELA SPAIN. STYLIST: ANNE HARTNETT

Lean into leather

Whether you're after frontier flair or timeless elegance, leather is integral to the American aesthetic

WORDS SOPHIE BARTON

When it comes to the rustic American aesthetic, leather is a perennial design hero. Timeless, tactile and packed with character, it brings warmth and a sense of lived-in style to a space. From well-worn tan sofas to vintage trunks and leather-topped desks, this organic material also evokes a sense of heritage craftsmanship, and harks back to the rugged charm of the American West. Better still, it's practical and robust, improving and softening over time as it develops its unique patina. 'Leather is such an integral part of the Americana design aesthetic,' says interior designer Neil McLachlan (neilmclachlan.co.nz). 'It captures the essence of what this style is all about: authenticity, durability and timeless elegance. Rooted in ranch culture and traditional craftsmanship, leather was historically a hard-wearing, practical choice that was readily available. Now, it has transformed into a hallmark of rustic American style. It brings depth, texture and soul to a space, yet also sits beautifully in a contemporary setting.' Over the following pages, Neil gives us the lowdown on leather.

A soft hide looks stunning draped over this antique leather settle

PRIZE PATINA

Whether you're searching for a sofa or a club chair, try to embrace the lived-in look when curating the Americana aesthetic. Rather like a fine wine, leather's natural ageing process means it will develop character over time. 'Don't be afraid of patina, it is the big thing,' explains Neil, who counts significant private homes and small luxury hotels amongst his clients. 'You want to avoid using the shiny leather that you see in so much modern furniture.' A popular phrase amongst design insiders, patina refers to the natural surface change that evolves on leather as it weathers. This might manifest as a deepening of colour, a surface sheen in well-worn parts or a softening of texture. Highly prized in the world of rustic Americana design, it adds a sense of homeliness and authenticity, and it is also a sure sign of quality and craftsmanship.

BE CREATIVE

Of course, the leather look is overkill when taken to extremes. Before you launch into shopping and styling, Neil recommends you plan your big picture. 'Think about teaming leather with simple wooden furniture,' he advises. 'Don't be afraid of brown furniture, it's very much part of the aesthetic.' When you're hunting for leather furniture, don't get too hung up on perfection. 'Don't be put off if a piece looks a little dried out, you can recondition it,' says Neil. 'You'll find fabulous products which restore leather furniture. You can also dye leather at home, so if you see a piece you like in a horrible colour, don't rule it out.' And if a chair has had too much wear and tear, how about replacing certain parts? 'You don't even need to use leather,' says Neil. 'For example, consider reupholstering a seat pad in textural linen, denim or velvet.' Of course, leather isn't confined to seating. Neil suggests looking for leather-topped desks, ottomans or even suitcases. 'When you're in vintage shops, look out for leatherbound books, mirrors, trunks and suitcases, which will all transport you to a different era,' he says. 'Don't just use one suitcase though, I have a stack in my office and they make a great feature. You could even monogram them too.' If you're lucky enough to find a vintage steamer trunk, remember there's always the option to display it vertically. 'Travelling trunks were often designed to be stood on their end, so the clothes could hang inside,' explains. Neil. 'People repurpose them too, I've even seen them turned into drinks cabinets.'

PLAY WITH TEXTURES

To channel echoes of the wild west, Neil suggests adding cowhides to your space. 'It's a wonderful way to get texture and patina at the same time,' he explains. 'Use them to add texture on the floor or you can even drape them over furniture. It's such a great American look.'

If cowhide isn't for you, how about adding subtle suede accents into the mix? Made from the underside of animal hides, this soft material is often used in shoes and handbags, but it looks great in interiors. 'Try combining leather and suede to get a contrast,' explains Neil. 'For example, if you have a leather ottoman, you could consider adding suede piping. It looks fantastic, and the contrast gives a bit of relief.' Consider suede soft furnishings too, whether that's in the form of cushions, upholstery or even a headboard in camel or rust hues. Whatever your treatment, remember suede is easily damaged by exposure to water.

Quality leather develops a beautiful patina

This timeworn leather sofa oozes a sense of story

Team a leather sofa with Navajo inspired prints

This tan table topper teams beautifully with a vintage leather chair

CREATE THE DREAM TEAM

To amplify the rustic American vibe, Neil suggests teaming leather with complementary materials like denim. This hard-wearing fabric also has echoes of the Wild West, and the pair make a dream team. 'Denim and leather are a great combination, think Ralph Lauren meets the Marlboro man,' says Neil. 'Like leather, denim looks even better with age, as it develops patina. Try using it to upholster an ottoman, which would then complement a leather chair.'

BE QUALITY AWARE

Once you tune into leather, you'll notice that the texture and quality vary hugely between products. If you're after a top-notch piece, look for 'full grain' leather, which is the most durable, characterful and also the most expensive. Often seen in high-end furnishings, this is uncut leather made from the top layer of the animal's hide and retains all of the natural markings, blemishes, scrapes and imperfections of the hide. It is also thick, durable and develops the highly-prized patina over time. Alternatively, you can opt for top grain leather. Thinner and slightly less durable, this has a velvety feel and is more workable. When seeking out furniture, Neil adds that he prefers to steer clear of split skin leather. 'The hide has been split, which means the leather is incredibly thin,' he explains. 'Split leather is more fragile and prone to creasing, and you won't get that lovely, warm thickness. If a leather looks shiny and creases easily, it is probably split skin leather.'

Get the leather look

Add a sense of story to your space, with everything from vintage style sofas to suede soft furnishings

LEATHER TWO DOOR BAR CABINET

Add a touch of old school American charm with this wood and leather bar cabinet.

VINTAGE SOFA CO
£1,295

TAN LEATHER ICE BUCKET

Shaken not stirred! Add a subtle leather accent to your décor with this decadent ice bucket.

JOANNA WOOD
£215

LEATHER SUEDE CUSHION

This soft cushion is filled with feathers and crafted from recycled leather and suede offcuts.

HOMESCAPES ONLINE
£14.49

DURIUM LEATHER LOUNGER

This sleek lounging chair combines aged tan leather with an industrial heritage framework.

KAYUHOME.CO.UK
£640

STIRLING MIDI SOFA IN HERITAGE LEATHER STONE

With its sumptuous curved arms and stud detailing, this showstopper of a sofa is a timeless classic.

DARLINGS OF CHELSEA
£3,506

ROSLIN GRAND SOFA

This leather sofa shakes up the traditional look, combining a fully buttoned seat and back.

DARLINGS OF CHELSEA
£2,291

NEWHAM CHESTERFIELD ARMCHAIR

Upholstered in supple buffalo leather, this rich tan chair is the perfect spot to curl up after a long day.

WHERESAINTSGO.CO.UK
£749

REGENCY RECTANGLE FOOTSTOOL

This chestnut brown footstool pairs artisanal tufting with vintage-style leather, giving a heritage vibe.

DFS
£449

MEMORY BOX

Celebrate nostalgia in style with this elegant leather chest, which doubles as a memory box.

LIFEOFRILEYONLINE.CO.UK
£269

CURVED ARM MID CENTURY CHAIR

Clean-cut and comforting, this curved armchair offers classic styling in a rich tan leather.

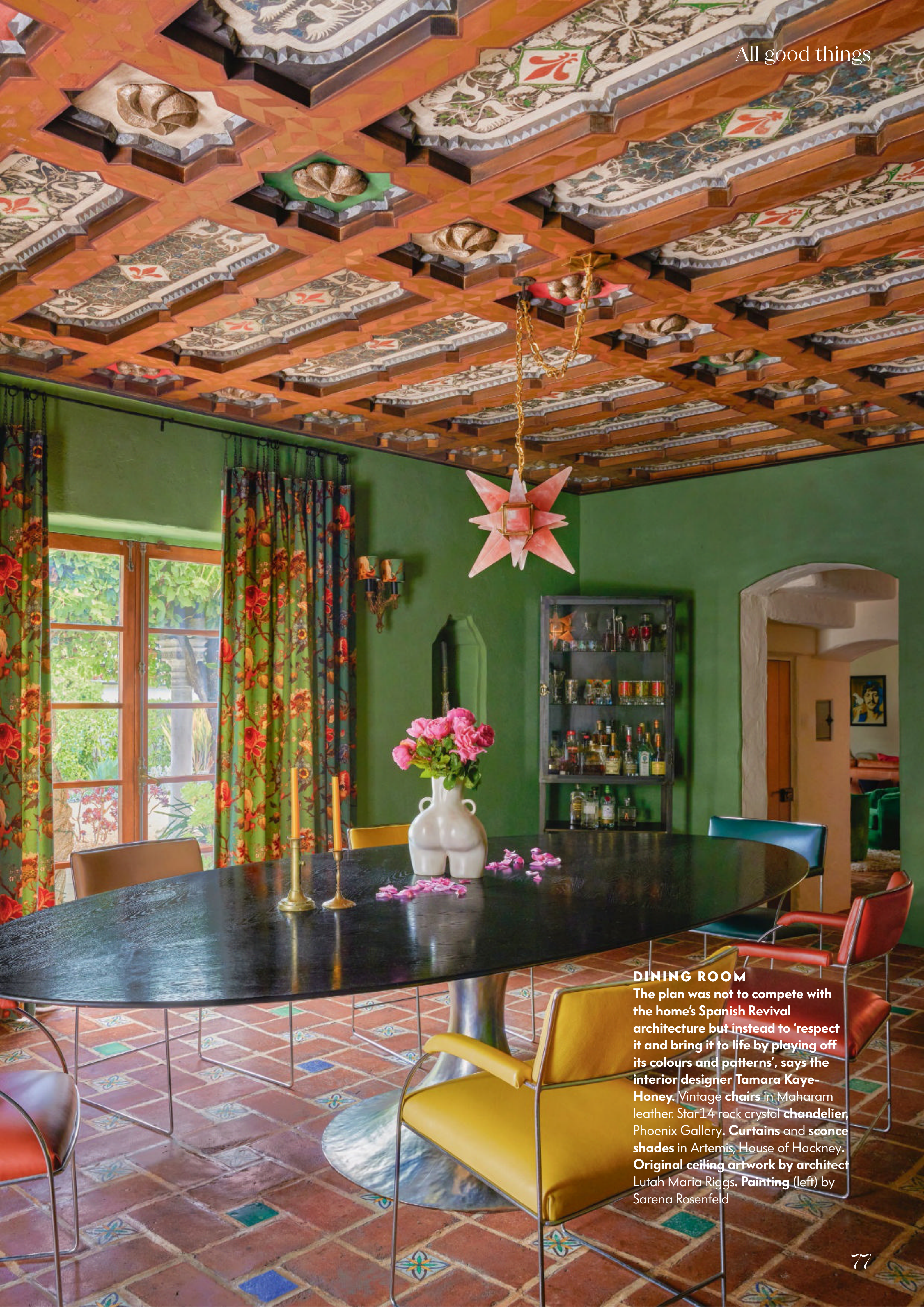
COX & COX
£1,125

PHOTOGRAPHS COX & COX, LIFE OF RILEY, DFS, WHERESAINTSGO.CO.UK, DARLINGS OF CHELSEA, KAYUHOME.CO.UK, HOMESCAPES ONLINE, JOANNA WOOD, VINTAGE SOFA CO

All good things

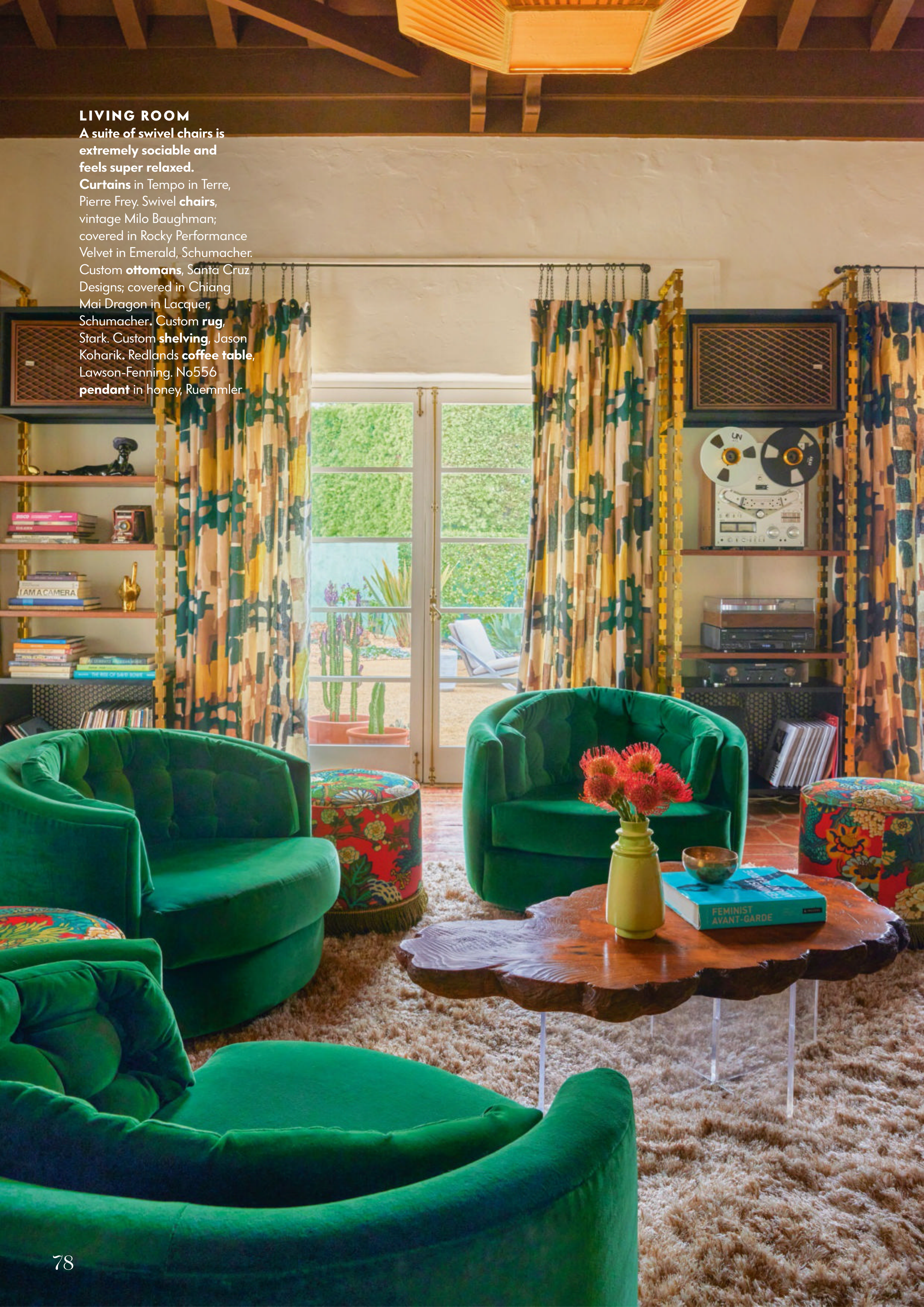
It took 20 years to find the right way – and the right designer – to refurb this architecturally important house in Montecito

WORDS FLEUR BRITTEN **PHOTOGRAPHY** YOSHIHIRO MAKINO



DINING ROOM

The plan was not to compete with the home's Spanish Revival architecture but instead to 'respect it and bring it to life by playing off its colours and patterns', says the interior designer Tamara Kaye-Honey. Vintage **chairs** in Maharam leather. Star14 rock crystal **chandelier,** Phoenix Gallery**. Curtains** and **sconce shades** in Artemis, House of Hackney**. Original ceiling artwork by architect** Lutah Maria Riggs**. Painting** (left) by Sarena Rosenfeld



LIVING ROOM

A suite of swivel chairs is extremely sociable and feels super relaxed. **Curtains** in Tempo in Terre, Pierre Frey. Swivel **chairs**, vintage Milo Baughman; covered in Rocky Performance Velvet in Emerald, Schumacher. Custom **ottomans**, Santa Cruz Designs; covered in Chiang Mai Dragon in Lacquer, Schumacher. Custom **rug**, Stark. Custom **shelving**, Jason Koharik. Redlands **coffee table**, Lawson-Fenning. No556 **pendant** in honey, Ruemmler

Living in a historically significant house comes with many advantages. For the British-American couple Justine Roddick and Tina Schlieske, who live in one of the finest examples of Spanish Revival architecture in Santa Barbara (as designed by the late, great American architect George Washington Smith), that includes original handmade tilework, hand-painted ceilings by George's female apprentice, the pioneering architect Lutah Maria Riggs, and murals by the Mexican artist Alfredo Ramos Martínez. Also, says Justine: '[George] must have chosen the most perfect location because it's just a ten-minute walk to the beach and a quick hop to the mountains.' The house even featured in American *Vogue* in 1927.

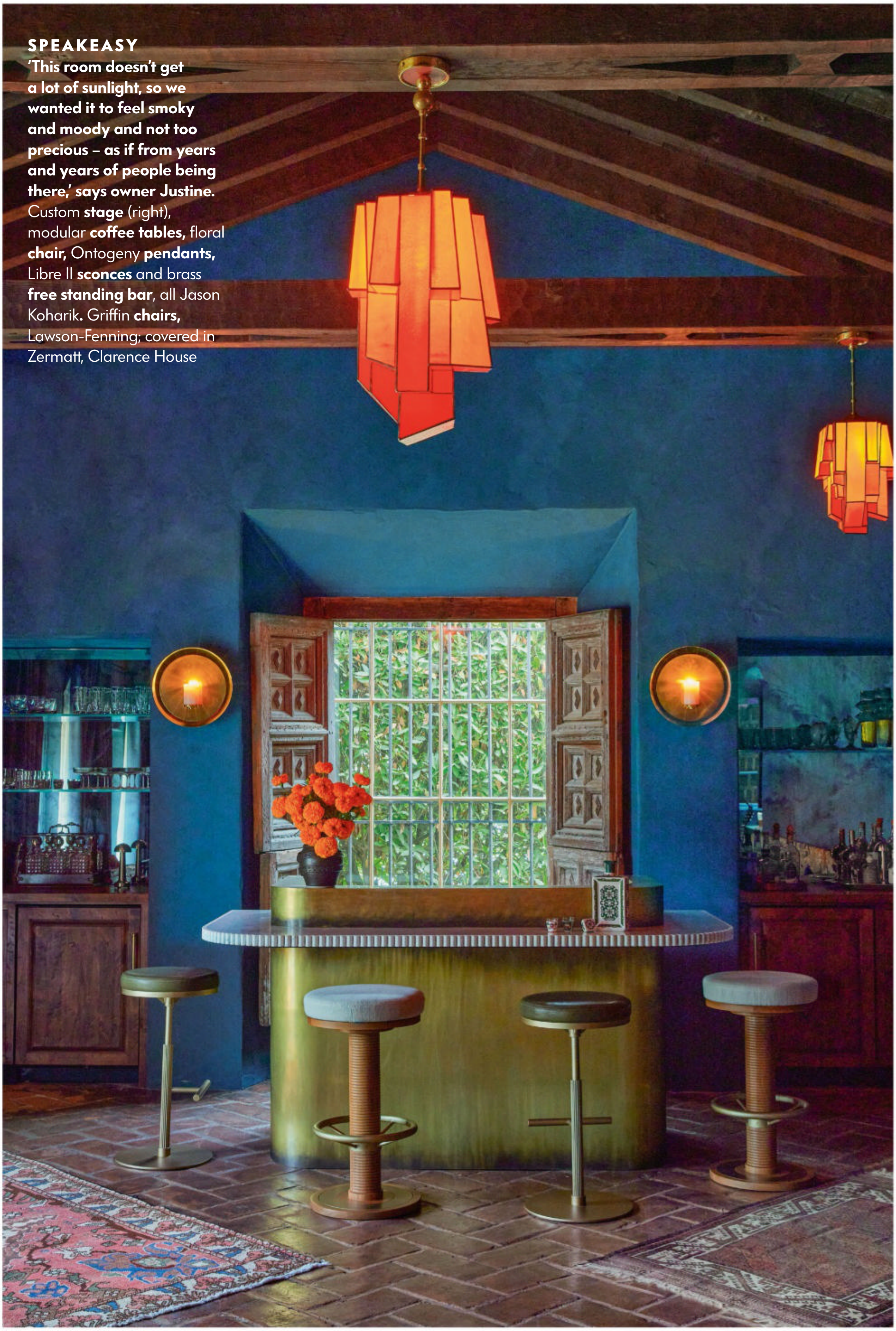
But it also came with a sizable challenge: how to update it and, says Justine, 'add our flavour while keeping the fabric of the home real'. Indeed, the couple had lived in the house for nearly 20 years before finally taking the plunge to renovate. Having followed the interior designer Tamara Kaye-Honey's work for years, they thought, 'If anybody can do this, it's her.'

The plan they came up with, says Tamara, was not to 'compete' with the house's original architecture, but to 'respect it and bring it to life by playing off its colours and patterns'. They deliberately started slowly, firstly with the dining room, adding House of Hackney curtains, malachite-green paint and a pendant light that perfectly offset its dramatic hand-painted ceiling and floor tiles. 'And then we were like – okay, this is going to be so much fun – and a breeze,' says Justine. 'So it just continued organically.' Tamara brought in the couple's personality by identifying their taste – and then elevating it. For example, in the living room where they already had one barrel chair, Tamara sourced a whole suite of them and had them covered in matching emerald fabric. Similarly, Tamara found more mid-century dining chairs to complement the couple's existing ones and had them upholstered in colours that picked up the original artwork and the new decorative scheme. 'She incorporated a lot of what we had already but just upped the game of it all,' says Justine. And Tamara paid tribute to Justine's British roots by 'giving a wink to Soho House' in the design.

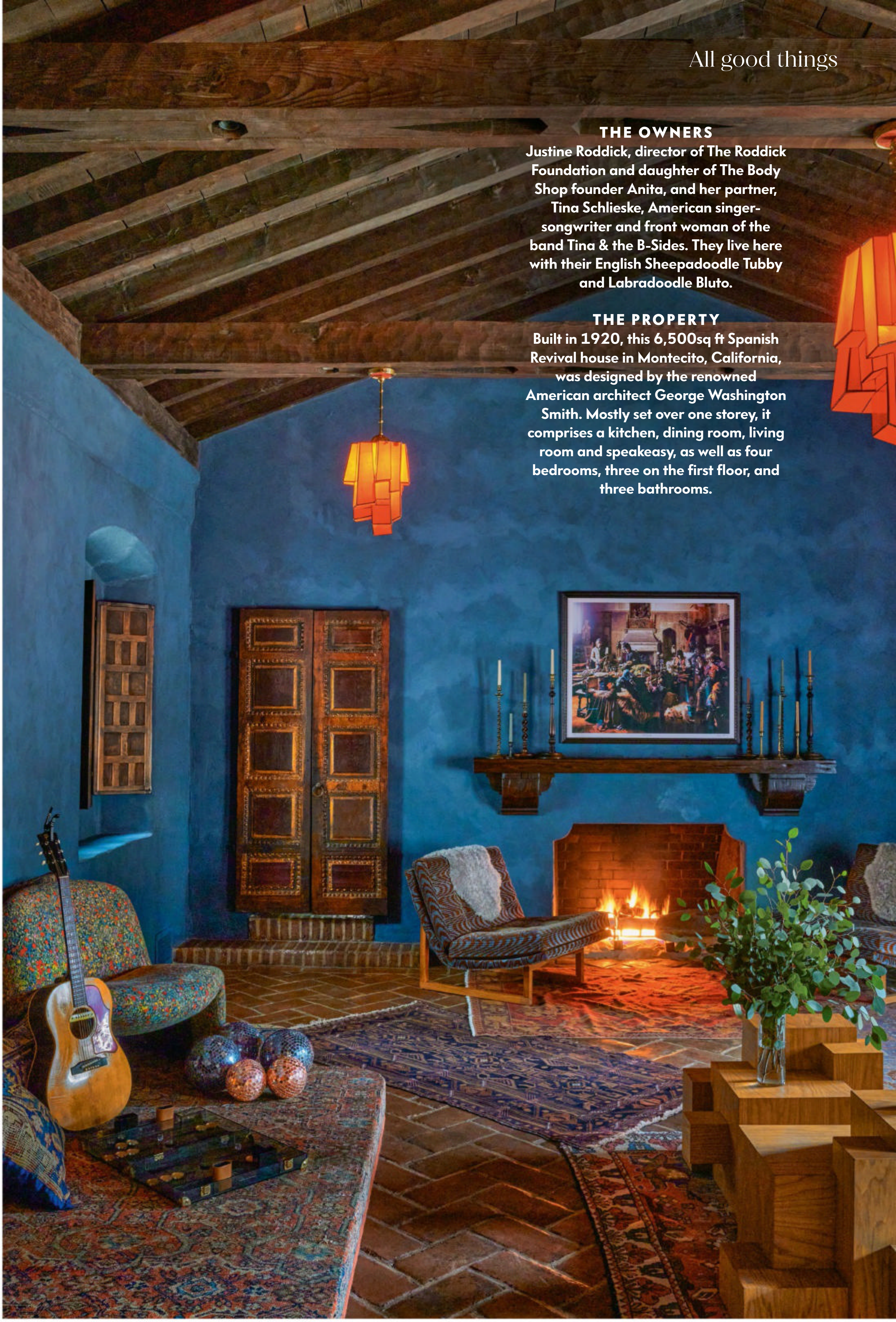
But the heart of the home, says Tamara, is music, so it was important that this shared passion was central to the renovation. The speakeasy is inspired by the Rolling Stones' *Beggars Banquet* image (the print even hangs on the wall) and has been designed to host musical soirees for up to 40 people. But it also needs to be intimate enough for nights à deux, or with their two adult children. To achieve that, Tamara covered the stage with kilim rugs and cushions, and created cosy lounge areas that can be layered with more seating.

The end result, says Justine, has created a kind of 'magnetic pull' towards the house. 'Before, it didn't feel like our home,' she says. 'Now it feels sad to leave. I'm pretty sure that if you showed pictures to people who knew us, but had never been in our house before, they'd go, "That's Justine and Tina's house."'

■ houseofhoney.com



SPEAKEASY
'This room doesn't get a lot of sunlight, so we wanted it to feel smoky and moody and not too precious – as if from years and years of people being there,' says owner Justine. Custom **stage** (right), modular **coffee tables,** floral **chair,** Ontogeny **pendants,** Libre II **sconces** and brass **free standing bar**, all Jason Koharik. Griffin **chairs,** Lawson-Fenning; covered in Zermatt, Clarence House



THE OWNERS

Justine Roddick, director of The Roddick Foundation and daughter of The Body Shop founder Anita, and her partner, Tina Schlieske, American singer-songwriter and front woman of the band Tina & the B-Sides. They live here with their English Sheepadoodle Tubby and Labradoodle Bluto.

THE PROPERTY

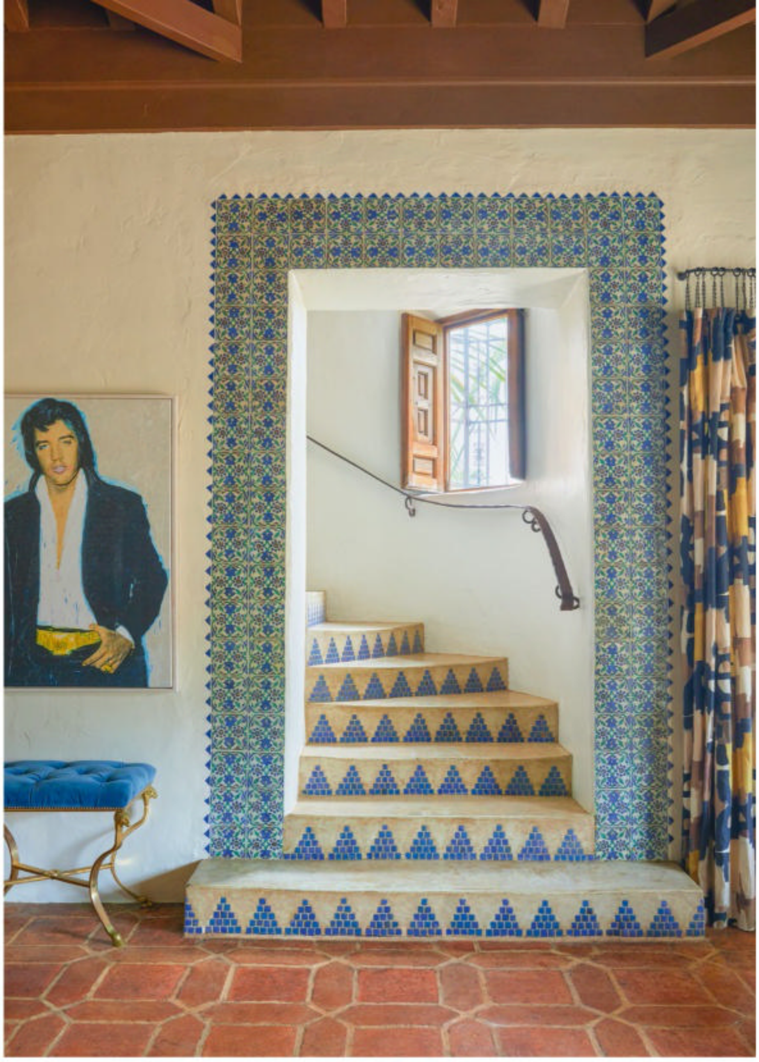
Built in 1920, this 6,500sq ft Spanish Revival house in Montecito, California, was designed by the renowned American architect George Washington Smith. Mostly set over one storey, it comprises a kitchen, dining room, living room and speakeasy, as well as four bedrooms, three on the first floor, and three bathrooms.

CLOAKROOM

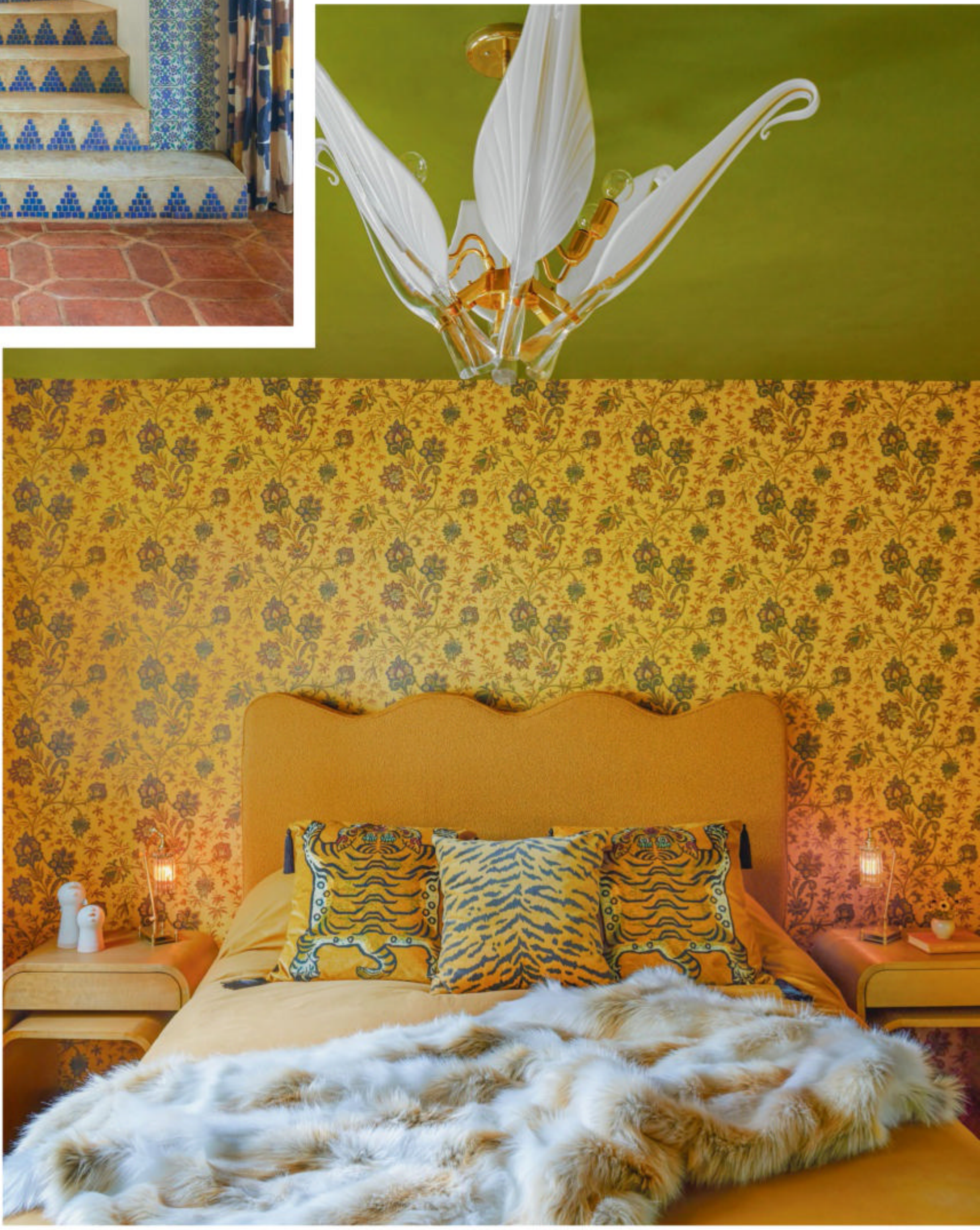
'Being English, I've always wanted wallpaper. I came across this paper and I thought, "Let's do something a little conversational." My mum's OBE is also hanging here,' says Justine. Trans Power Toile Pink **wallpaper,** Voutsa x Grant Shaffer. Vintage **sconces**, client's own; similar, Flos**.** Custom **antiqued mirror,** Santa Barbara Glass Company. **Basin**, Kast. **Tap,** Rejuvenation

KITCHEN

'The cabinetry colour we chose – Eating Room Red – was the same I'd had in my house in London. My blood still runs very English, so I really wanted that little connection,' says Justine. Cabinetry, Bottenfield Construction; painted in Eating Room Red, Farrow & Ball. Cabinetry **hardware**, **tap,** all deVOL. **Prep sink**, Bates and Bates. Prep sink **tap**, Perrin & Rowe. **Worktops**, Modul Marble. Platonic Solids **ceiling sconces** and Araneidae **pendant**, all Jason Koharik



STAIRCASE
'Working with historical bones, it felt important that everything we brought into the home felt authentic, special and unique. It wasn't, "Let's design a showcase." Everything had to have a purpose or meaning,' says Tamara. Elvis **portrait** by James Holdsworth**.** Vintage blue velvet **ottoman**, client's own; for similar, try Vinterior. The tiles are original to the house



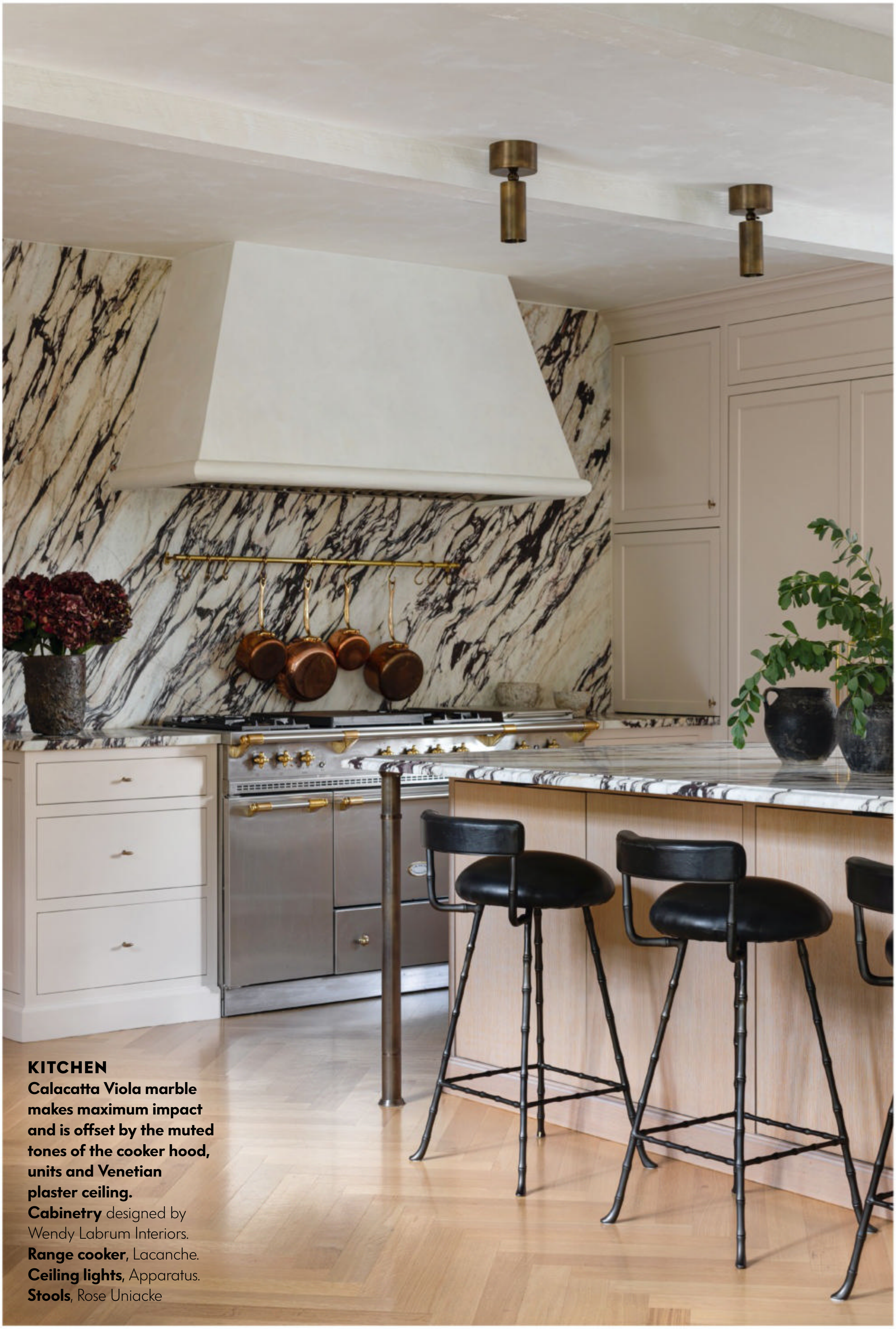
BEDROOM
'The Mexican architect Luis Barragán was inspirational for me in terms of his fierce use of colour,' says Tamara, who used a striking green on the ceiling here. **Indienne wallpaper** in Ochre; **cushions**, all House of Hackney. Vintage Franco Luce for Seguso glass **chandelier**; find similar on 1stDibs**.** **Headboard**, Lulu and Georgia. **Bedding**, Parachute. **Throw**, Yves Delorme. **Bedside tables**, West Elm. Table **lamps**, Neptune Glassworks

Making history

In a historic home in a Chicago suburb, designer Wendy Labrum deftly honoured the house's past while weaving in modern elements

WORDS JULIET BENNING **STYLING** DARWIN FITZ **PHOTOGRAPHY** AIMÉE MAZZENGA/JBSA

KITCHEN-DINER
A mid-century dining table and custom-made light fixture strike an elegant note.
Table, Charlotte Perriand. Saarinen Tulip **chairs**, Knoll. Bespoke **pendant** designed by Wendy Labrum Interiors



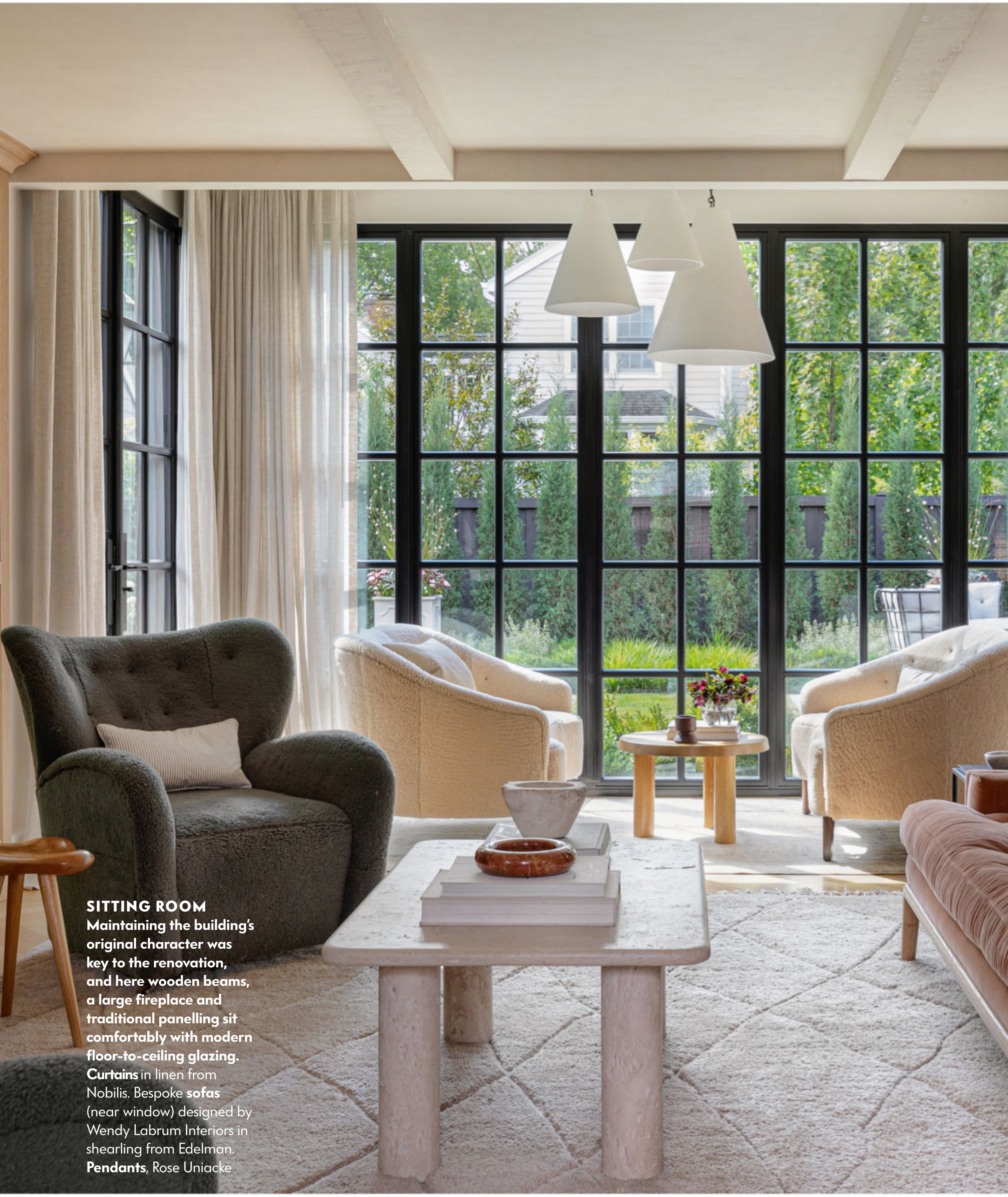
KITCHEN
Calacatta Viola marble makes maximum impact and is offset by the muted tones of the cooker hood, units and Venetian plaster ceiling.
Cabinetry designed by Wendy Labrum Interiors.
Range cooker, Lacanche.
Ceiling lights, Apparatus.
Stools, Rose Uniacke

Preservation isn't high on the agenda in Hinsdale, a western suburb of Chicago. In fact, many old homes are getting knocked down in favour of new builds. So when interior designer Wendy Labrum was asked to redesign her clients' recently acquired historic home, she was eager to lend her expertise. 'When Chicago was first built, this was a neighbourhood of old money, which is why there are so many beautiful mansions. But rather than take these on, a lot of people are opting to build generic and big boxy new properties,' says Wendy. 'My clients had the budget to build something new and fancy, but it's not what they wanted. They were keen to take something much older and do a period-appropriate and sensitive renovation. This approach can actually be more challenging, though, as the city can make you jump through more hoops.' The house the couple had settled on was built in 1926 and combines details from the American Craftsman period with some Georgian elements. 'The architecture is a bit of a hybrid and when we did the renovation we brought in American and English inspiration. We looked at Monticello in Virginia, which was Thomas Jefferson's home, as a point of reference,' Wendy explains. Continuity was another important factor. 'My clients wanted any development to be true to the house's origins. We went to great lengths to source specific bricks that would match what was there.' Also on-board as architect was Michael Abraham, who knew the house well, having provided drawings for an earlier renovation of the property some 30 years back. 'The owners had bought the house from an older couple who had looked after it well, but with three young children and a dog they felt some adaptations would be needed for modern family life,' Wendy says. The four-year project went in phases, and after buying the plot next door, the couple have created a pool, which is heavily used during Chicago's hot summers. 'The house is now three separate structures inspired by an old English estate,' explains Wendy. 'The original garage was converted into a pool house, with masses of light coming in through steel-framed windows that take up the position of the former garage doors. A new garage was built on the next-door plot.' The family, who had been living in a smaller property in the same area, brought only their piano with them. 'With furniture and art, we started from scratch. We purchased a lot of antiques and sourced pieces from all over the world. Our clients had discerning taste, but they trusted us to do our work and had no problem visualising our concepts, which made it all feel more seamless,' Wendy says. 'While I often work with an art curator or consultant, I sourced the art for this project myself. As a graduate in art history, I have perspective but not the same breadth of knowledge as a curator. I just wanted the art to add a magical alchemy to the interiors.' The more formal and subdued rooms favoured by the former owners were reimagined for a high-energy modern family. 'We reconfigured the entryway and took space from the walkway to the old library to create a larger mudroom,' Wendy explains. 'We also transformed an attic wardrobe into a much-needed home office.'

The sloped ceilings and angled walls at the top of the house were a design challenge that she relished. 'We lined the office walls with striped fabric using a pattern-drench idea to make it cosy and special,' Wendy says. 'I can't do anything that's 100% traditional, so I always add some kind of contemporary twist. Often this might come from furnishings or light fittings.' Similarly, in an attic bedroom, Wendy used polished plaster to create a cosseting scheme that embraces the slanting ceiling and roof lines. Design details like these truly work to improve the quirks of the architecture, and can be found throughout the house. The recipient of a huge character injection and masses more functionality, this older generation home has long secured its future.

■ wendylabruminteriors.com

> “'We wanted to be true to the house's origins – we went to great lengths to secure bricks that would match what was there”



SITTING ROOM
Maintaining the building's original character was key to the renovation, and here wooden beams, a large fireplace and traditional panelling sit comfortably with modern floor-to-ceiling glazing. **Curtains** in linen from Nobilis. Bespoke **sofas** (near window) designed by Wendy Labrum Interiors in shearling from Edelman. **Pendants**, Rose Uniacke

BANQUETTE
This additional seating area is often used for homework and playing games. Leather offers a practical yet stylish finish for the upholstery. **Walls** and **ceiling** in bespoke Venetian plaster. **Blind in** fabric from S Harris. Antique **table**, 1stDibs. **Sculpture** by Mirjam de Nijs. **Painting** by Frédéric Heurlier Cimolai

Q&A Wendy Labrum

The designer shares her style inspiration

BIGGEST INDULGENCE The owners giving us the freedom to do what was right for the project.

GREATEST SUCCESS The dynamic with my clients.

GO-TO COLOUR A warm kind of rusty red.

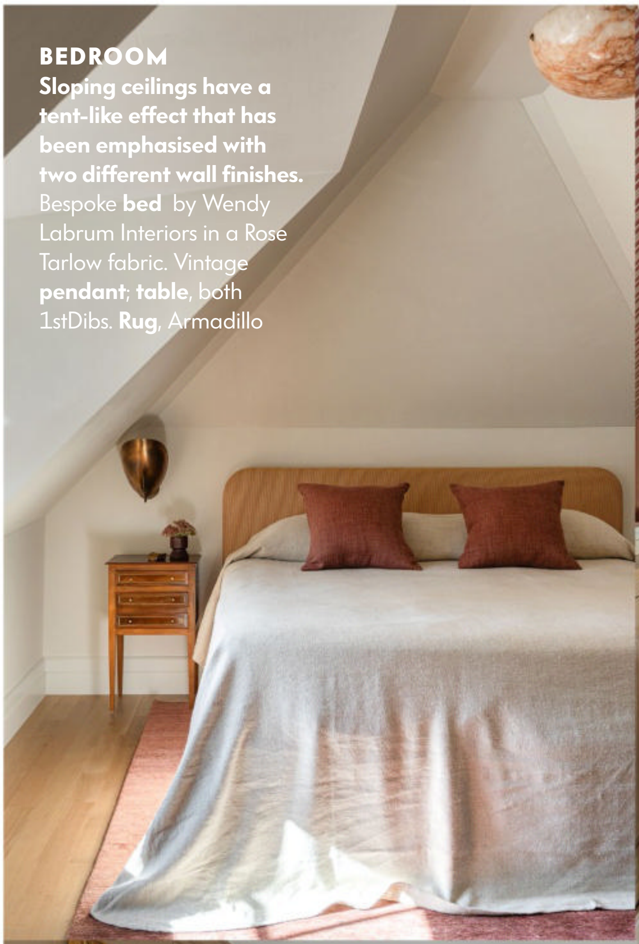
YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS Elegant, timeless, comfortable.

DESIGN HERO There are so many, but one is Frances Elkins – she was such a pioneer in the industry and an inspiration for all women in business.

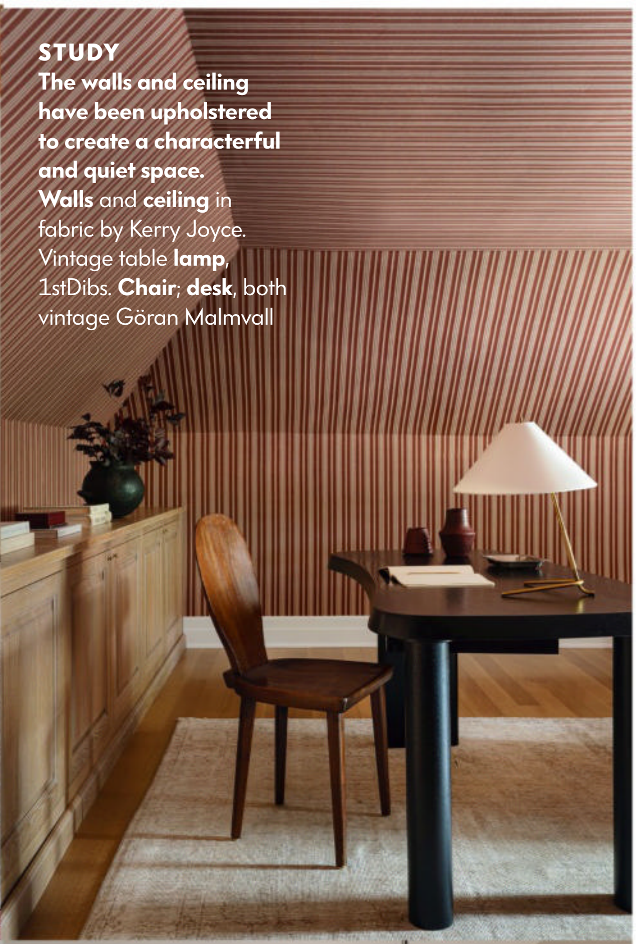
SECRET ADDRESS Off-the-beaten-path antique stores. It's great to develop a relationship with local owners as they can be invaluable sourcing experts.

LAST PIECE OF ART BOUGHT FOR YOUR HOME A large-scale abstract piece by Andrey Samarin.

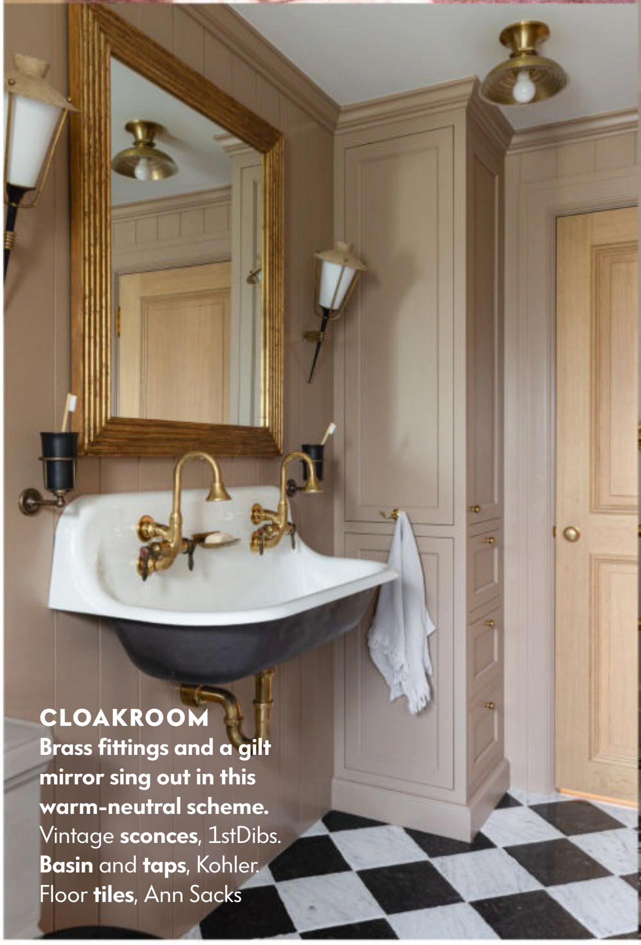
MUSEUM YOU VISITED RECENTLY The Hôtel de la Marine in Paris. It's small, but it showcases some of the best historical architecture and details you'll see in the city.



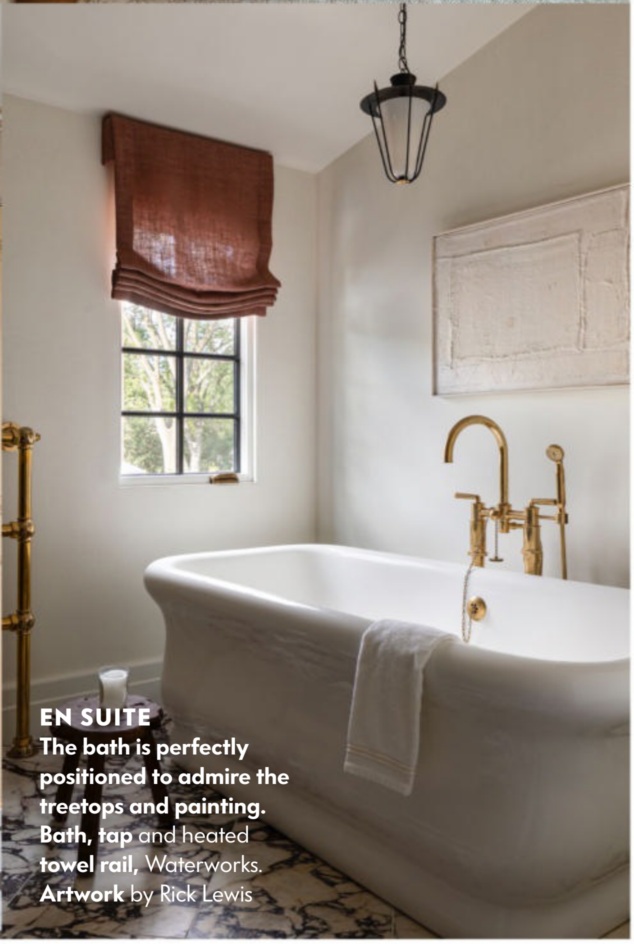
BEDROOM
Sloping ceilings have a tent-like effect that has been emphasised with two different wall finishes. Bespoke **bed** by Wendy Labrum Interiors in a Rose Tarlow fabric. Vintage **pendant**; **table**, both 1stDibs. **Rug**, Armadillo



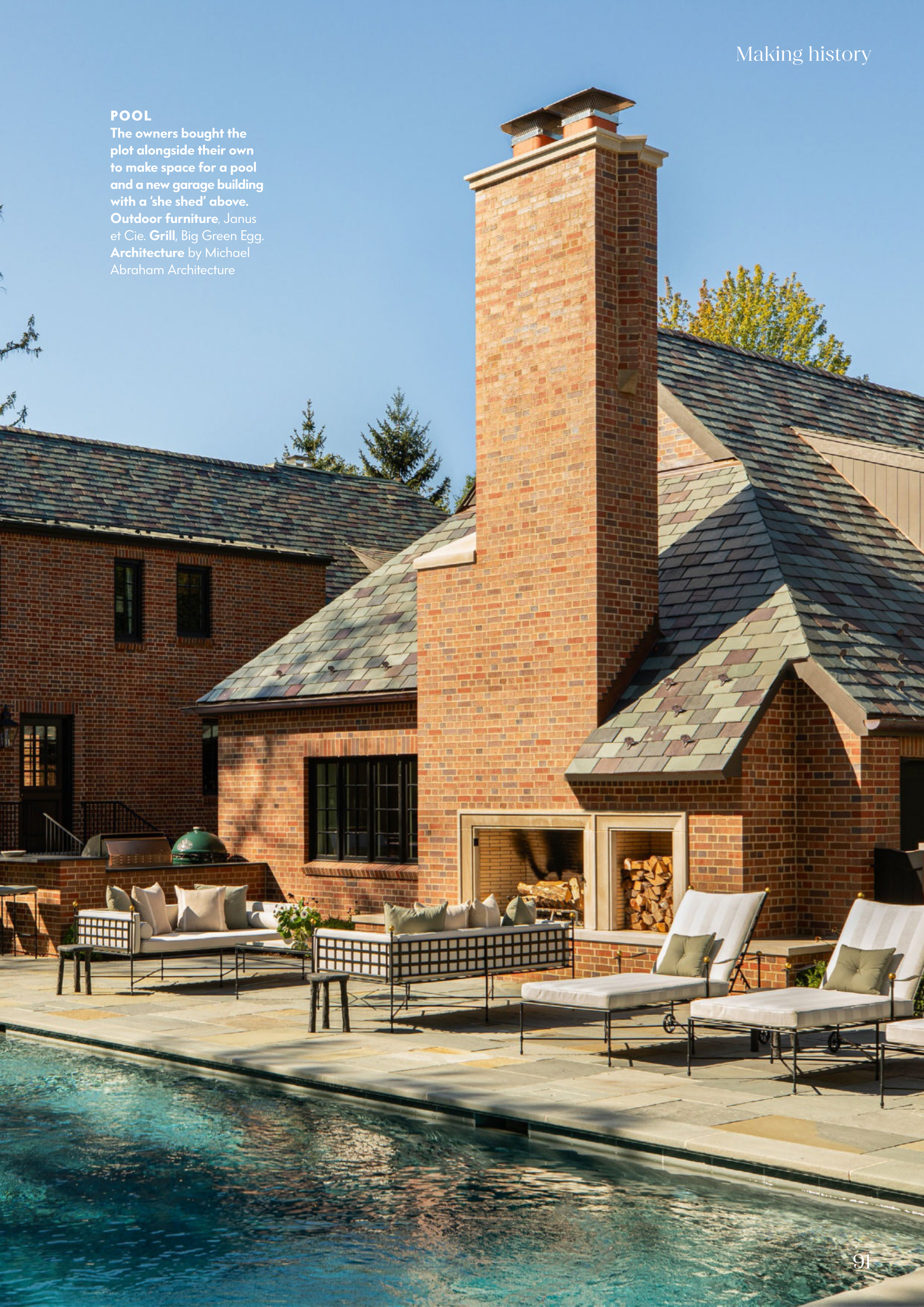
STUDY
The walls and ceiling have been upholstered to create a characterful and quiet space. **Walls** and **ceiling** in fabric by Kerry Joyce. Vintage table **lamp**, 1stDibs. **Chair**; **desk**, both vintage Göran Malmvall



CLOAKROOM
Brass fittings and a gilt mirror sing out in this warm-neutral scheme. Vintage **sconces**, 1stDibs. **Basin** and **taps**, Kohler. Floor **tiles**, Ann Sacks



EN SUITE
The bath is perfectly positioned to admire the treetops and painting. **Bath, tap** and heated **towel rail,** Waterworks. **Artwork** by Rick Lewis



POOL
The owners bought the plot alongside their own to make space for a pool and a new garage building with a 'she shed' above. **Outdoor furniture**, Janus et Cie. **Grill**, Big Green Egg. **Architecture** by Michael Abraham Architecture

FIRESIDE MOMENT Handwoven wicker **tray,** Studio HÅM

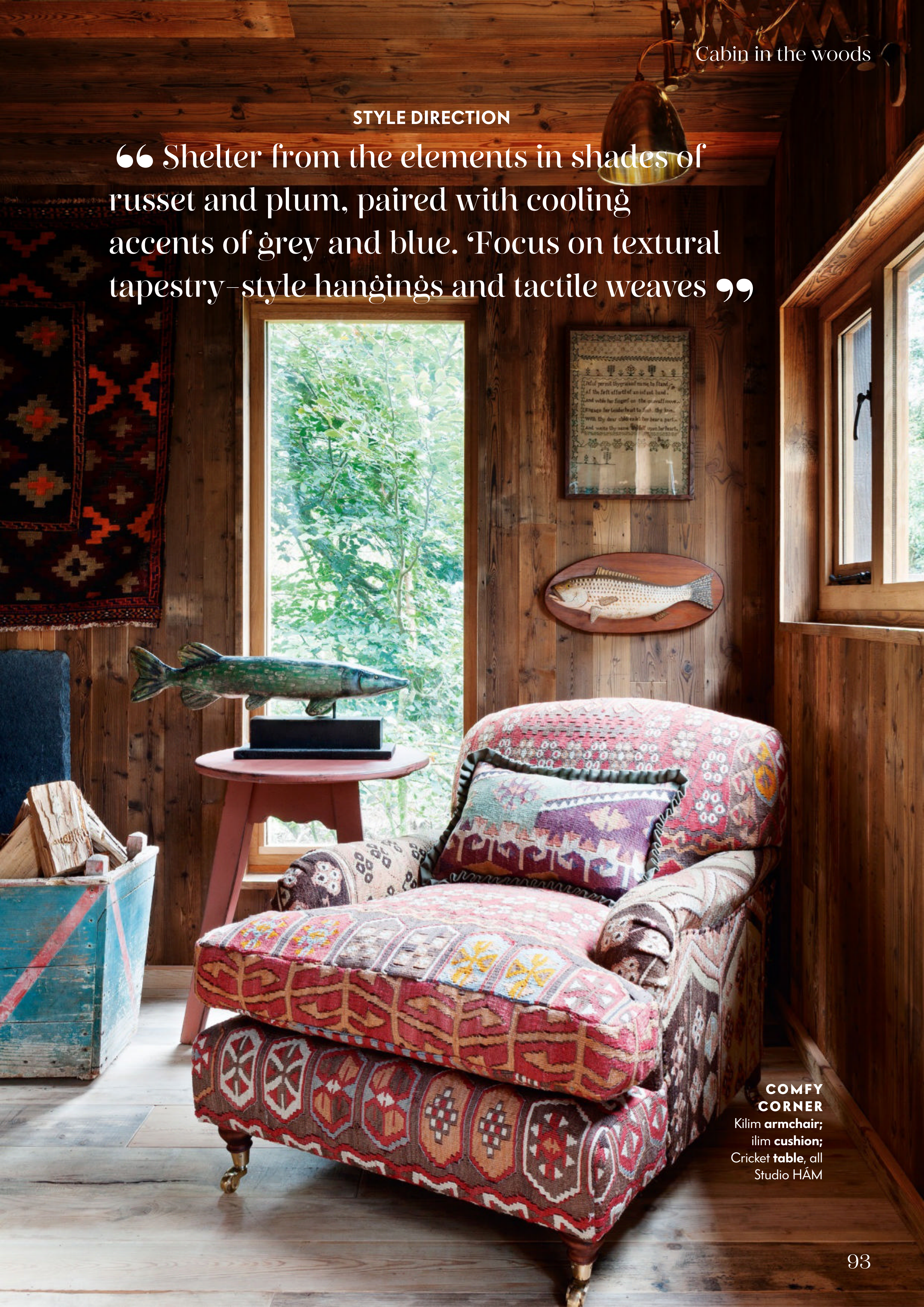
Cabin in the woods

Traditional folk weaves, rustic wood and cosy layers of blankets and quilts bring simple charm to homestead style

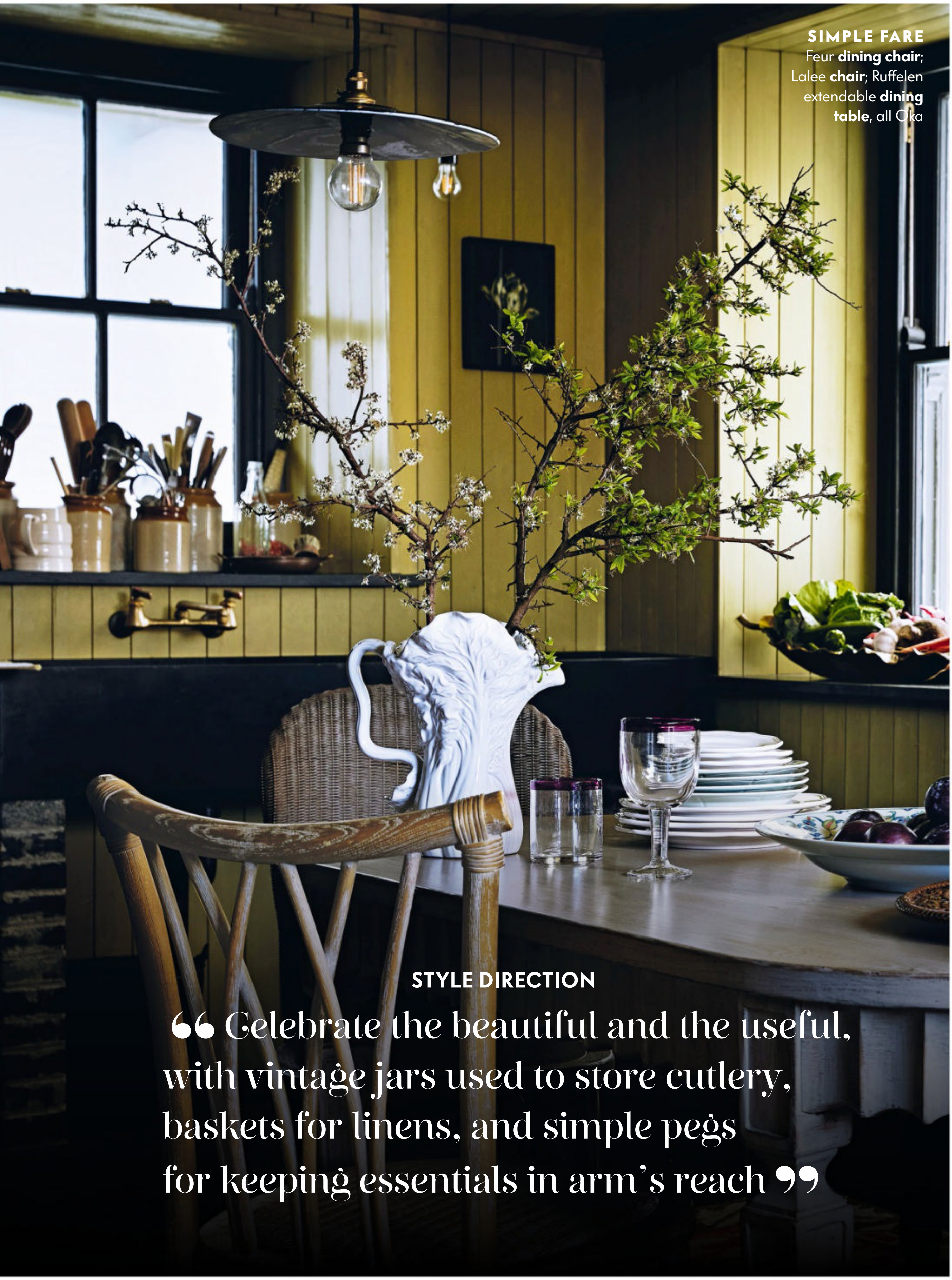
WORDS ANDRÉA CHILDS

STYLE DIRECTION

> “ Shelter from the elements in shades of russet and plum, paired with cooling accents of grey and blue. ‘Focus on textural tapestry-style hangings and tactile weaves ”



COMFY CORNER Kilim **armchair;** ilim **cushion;** Cricket **table**, all Studio HÁM



SIMPLE FARE
Feur **dining chair**; Lalee **chair**; Ruffelen extendable **dining table**, all Oka

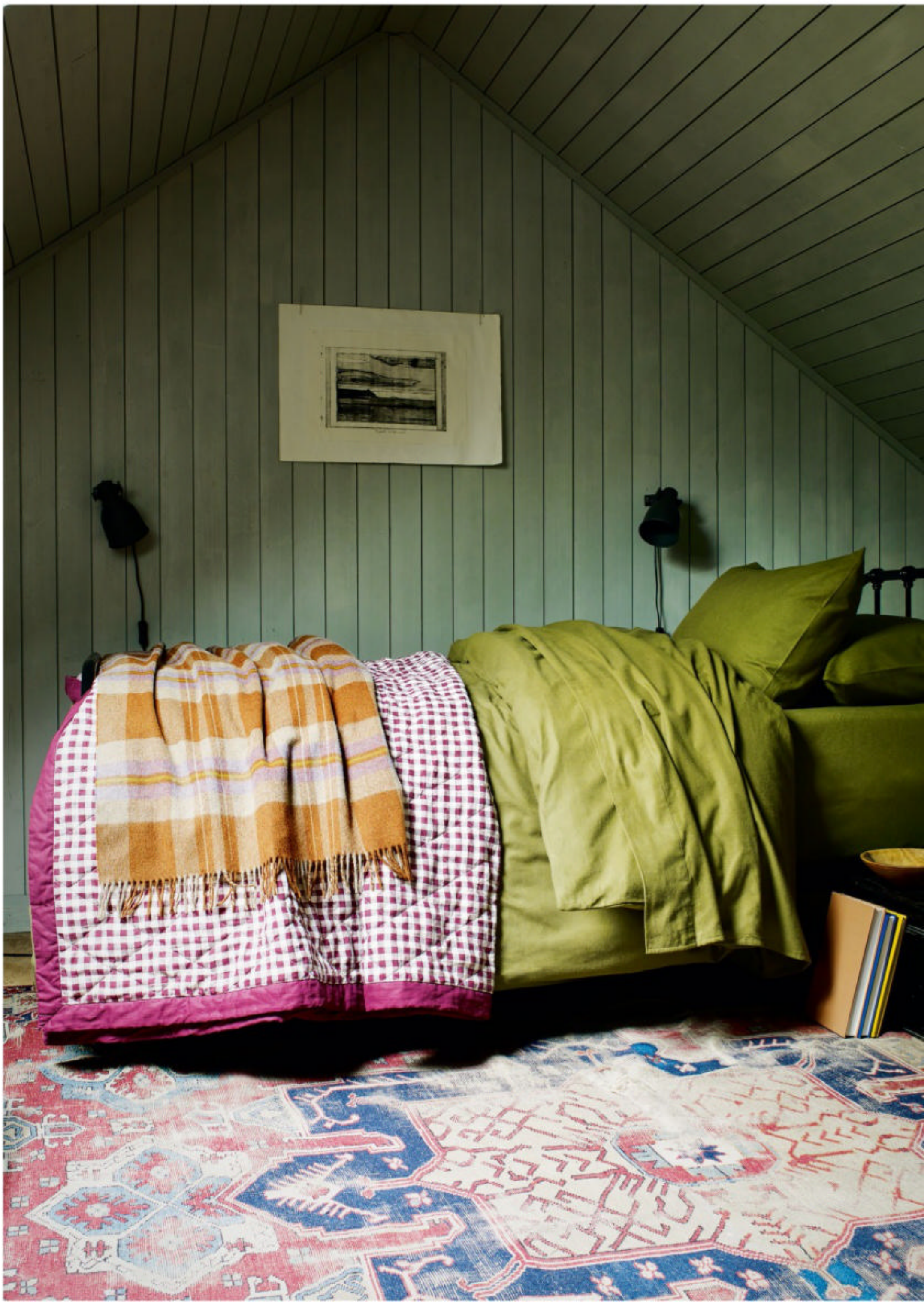
STYLE DIRECTION

“Celebrate the beautiful and the useful, with vintage jars used to store cutlery, baskets for linens, and simple pegs for keeping essentials in arm’s reach”

GATHER AND KEEP
Hambledon **umbrella stand**; Hambledon small **welly stand;** Brading rectangular **basket** in small and large, all Garden Trading

ROMANTIC DETAILS
Body lace voile **curtain**, The Monkey Puzzle Tree. Burlington has a range of coloured **sanitaryware**. Single sheepskin **rug**, John Lewis & Partners

REST EASY
Olive brushed cotton **bedding** bundle; Burnt Orange check cabin wool **blanket**; Berry gingham linen **quilt**, all Piglet in Bed



FEATURE ANDRÉA CHILDS **PHOTOGRAPHS** CHRIS LEAH, ALEXANDER JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY

STYLE DIRECTION

> ‘Handcrafted and intricate details add a touch of rustic romance. Scour vintage shops for tinware, embroidered pieces, lace panels and beautifully worn rugs to dress your space

The art of antique hunting

From flea markets to insider tips, our experts reveal how to find furniture with a sense of story

WORDS SOPHIE BARTON

From time-worn wood to weathered finishes and well-loved silhouettes, antique and vintage pieces lie at the heart of the rustic American aesthetic. Layered with care, they are a great way to bring character to your interior, adding a sense of heritage and storied charm.

'Antiques bring so much to the table, because they have so much history and character, which is central to the overall Americana aesthetic,' says Stuart Murray, a leading expert in vintage furniture. 'Incorporating them into your space really makes it feel like your home is telling a story.'

With much of the furniture industry dominated by mass-produced designs, antiques have, of course, stood the test of time. 'They have longevity,' adds fashion and interiors stylist Lucy Mulliner (lucymulliner.com). 'There's a reason we hunt for pieces which were produced years ago; they are often far better made than many modern pieces. Buying antique and vintage pieces adds depth to your styling and gives a more homely, lived-in aesthetic rather than an off-the-shelf style.' If the thought of seeking out antique and vintage finds feels like an impossible task, fear not. Here, the experts explain how to source them and how to style them...

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

To curate the traditional American look, keep your eyes peeled for everything from antique furniture to kitchen accessories, like enamel tableware and jugs. 'Think about vintage signs, quilts, pottery and folk art,' adds Stuart, owner of Retrovintage (retrovintageonline.co.uk). 'You could start with an old rocking chair, a hand-painted chest, or a vintage wood dining table. These pieces will really help create that American heritage feel. There are specific fabrics and finishes that scream Americana. Think about worn leather, distressed wood and natural textiles, such as linen and cotton. You'll also see metals – particularly rusted iron or aged brass – used in Americana design. These materials bring a rustic, lived-in feel that's so characteristic of the style.' Don't forget art, which is so integral to creating a sense of story. 'You can pick up great, affordable art if you look carefully,' adds Lucy Mulliner. 'Try searching for original oil landscapes on eBay, and you'll find amazing pieces. When it comes to furniture, look for dark wood, which is often easy to come by at auction or furniture-specific charity shops.'

WHERE TO SHOP

Antique hunting can seem overwhelming at first, but you'll find a myriad of avenues to explore, from traditional shops to flea markets and online auctions. 'If you're new to this, I'd recommend starting with estate sales, antiques shops and flea markets,' says Stuart. 'Online auctions are also a great option, and there are directories available online – such as the National Antique Dealers Association – that can help you find reputable sources. Social media, especially platforms like Instagram, can also connect you with antique dealers who share their latest finds.'

Websites like eBay can also be a great source of vintage finds, while flea and antique markets make for a fun day out. These run on regular dates across the UK, at locations including Shepton Mallet, Ardingly, Stoneleigh and Newbury, but a quick online search will locate options near you. One of the largest offerings is Newark International Antiques and Collectors Fair, a veritable treasure trove attracting thousands of dealers and buyers every other month. Sunbury Antiques Market, held at Kempton Park Racecourse on the second and last Tuesday of every month, also attracts over 700 traders.

This antique chest complements the red, white and blue palette

Be a savvy shopper

Make the most of a market, with these insider tips

Flea and antique markets are treasure troves, but the best pieces sell out fast. Get there as early as you can, and ensure you make it on the first day. Some fairs even offer trade entry tickets, often for a higher price, which get you in before the crowds. 'Arrive early to get the best picks,' advises Stuart. 'Sometimes, you can even get early access if you know the right people – just ask around. People are usually very helpful if they know you're coming with a genuine interest. Bartering is also part of the fun. Don't be afraid to negotiate, just be respectful.' With hundreds of vendors on-site, it's easy to feel overwhelmed, so take time to formulate a plan beforehand. 'Antique fairs and flea markets can be huge, and you'll be surprised how quickly you get decision fatigue,' says Lucy. 'Before you arrive, make a list of the pieces you're looking for and, if possible, check out a map or floor plan. You'll often find them available on the website. A bit of preparation pays dividends.' Lucy also recommends following your favourite vendors on Instagram. 'They'll often give followers a heads-up on what they'll be selling,' she explains. 'Starting up a good relationship might also give you early access to their goods, and they may even source pieces specifically for you. They'll always be keen to make a sale, so drop them a DM. It's also common practice to ask a seller what their best price is, in case there's a deal to be done.'

USED
FLEA MARKET
SALES
DAILY

BID AT AUCTION

Auction houses are another great source and, if you can snap up pieces before a dealer, you'll avoid the inevitable markup. There's also the thrill of the chase but, be warned, it can be addictive! You'll find auction houses dotted around the UK, but online access means it's often possible to get involved from home. Lucy Mulliner recommends sites like auctionet.com and the-saleroom.com, which connect you with auction houses around the world. 'You can view catalogues and register to bid online,' she explains. 'There are bargains to be found, but be prepared to pay a buyer's fee on top of your sale price. You'll also need to organise and pay for shipping, so watch out if you're eyeing up something large from abroad. Buying at auction can be exhilarating, but decide your highest bid beforehand and avoid the temptation to get carried away.'

This vintage sign and rocking chair add character

SMOKE AND ENJOY
"BLUE BELL"
TOBACCO
COOL AND MELLOW

Soft linen, vintage chairs and barn stars create the rustic look

SEEK OUT RARE PIECES

Finding a rare or unique piece of history might take a bit more effort, but Stuart says it pays to persist. 'Auctions are a great place to find them, but it's also worth building relationships with antique dealers who know where to source one-of-a-kind pieces,' he says. 'Networking at markets and estate sales can also uncover hidden gems. It takes a bit of time and effort but you can definitely end up with a perfect Americana aesthetic if you're willing to put the work in.' Lucy also recommends making use of social media. 'Antiques dealers really know their stuff, so follow as many as you can via Instagram,' she says. 'Many dealers will even keep an eye out for you, if you let them know what you're after. Try specialists such as Cotswold-based Lorfords Antiques, which has a wonderful edited collection of rare and unique pieces. They remove the stress of the hunt and prove a quicker way of sourcing the item you're looking for.'

DO A QUALITY CHECK

If you're on the hunt for investment pieces or authentic American furniture, it's important to seek out quality craftsmanship. 'Wooden chests, dining tables, and rocking chairs are worth the extra investment,' says master craftsman Derek Wilson, whose bespoke handmade furniture has been selected by everyone from royal families to Oscar-winners. 'These pieces showcase the best of American craftsmanship and serve as functional art that appreciates over time. True luxury furniture should last for generations.' When evaluating antique furniture, Derek, who is co-founder of Faolchú (faolchu.com), recommends you start by checking the wood itself. 'Quality pieces use solid hardwoods like oak, maple, cherry, or walnut – not veneers over cheaper materials,' he says. 'Look for consistency in the wood grain and colouring. Next, examine the joinery. Quality furniture connects through traditional woodworking joints, not nails or obvious screws. Test the stability by gently rocking the piece – quality furniture feels solid, with minimal movement.'

GIVE IT SOME TLC

Of course, once you've made your investment, you want to look after it. To preserve antique furniture, Derek recommends maintaining a steady humidity of 40-60%, and not positioning it in direct sunlight. 'Dust regularly with soft cloths, never use silicone-based products and avoid commercial polishes that build up over time,' he adds. 'Apply quality wax annually, too – I recommend natural beeswax or carnauba wax to nourish the wood and protect the finish. For repairs, find specialists who understand traditional techniques and materials. Quick fixes often cause more damage later.'

CONSIDER AN UPCYCLE

If you're on a tighter budget, Stuart suggests seeking out pieces that might need a little love. 'A vintage dresser with a bit of damage could be a great bargain if you're willing to restore it,' he explains. 'You can also find deals at lesser-known flea markets or by searching for items that aren't in perfect condition. Often, these can be a steal and a bit of sanding or repainting brings them back to life.' If you're after art, Lucy Mulliner suggests trying to overlook poor quality frames. 'Remember, you can always get pieces reframed,' she says. 'Just look for warm, muted colours.'

A trunk doubles as a feature and storage

STYLE IT RIGHT

When styling your favourite antiques and vintage pieces, the key is to strike the right balance. 'It's easy to fall in love with antiques, but it's even easier to overcrowd a room with too much,' says Stuart. 'Mixing antiques with contemporary pieces can help keep things fresh. Rather than covering every wall with vintage items, think about creating focal points like a vintage mirror above a modern console, or an old trunk used as a coffee table. A vintage wooden chair, for instance, can add charm to a modern dining room, while an old quilt might provide a great contrast against a sleek sofa. You want each piece to stand out and make a statement, not just blend into a sea of other old items. 'Also, think about the scale and proportions of the items you're buying. Sometimes, an overstuffed armchair or a chunky, rustic coffee table can dominate a room, so it's important to place these pieces where they won't clutter up a space, but instead enhance it.' Lucy agrees. 'Less is more,' she adds. 'These pieces look good when styled with a contrast, for example in a more contemporary setting. Be careful with buying anything that looks too lived in, you don't want your home to look like a jumble sale of items. A lovely antique wooden tray, styled with contemporary dinner or glassware, can be a really stylish way of serving guests at social gatherings. Likewise, antique earthenware or a confit pot can make a perfect and unique vase.'

Replicate the look

Transform unwanted furniture into a one-of-a-kind piece

If you're not lucky enough to own a genuine piece, try your hand at creating the aged look. This is a great way to upcycle a piece of furniture that's seen better days – you just need paint and wax.

'First, think about the furniture that's best suited to this look,' says Karen Jones, Creative Artisan expert at Frenchic Paint (frenchic.co.uk). 'Rustic, simple shapes like ladderback chairs, blanket boxes and chests of drawers are perfect for replicating the well-loved style of old American pieces.' Your first step is to create a textured base coat using chalk paint. 'My go-to is Frenchic Paint's Original Artisan range,' says Karen. 'Try Sugar Puff, a pale, warm-toned beige. Layer the paint more thickly on areas which wear over time, such as around the handles of a chest of drawers, the top and seat of a chair, or the edge of the lid of a blanket box.' Once dry, add a rich warm red or blue/green as the topcoat – Karen uses Frenchic's Original Artisan Flamenco or Frenchic Al Fresco Dive In. 'Distress it to emulate natural wear and tear with a sanding sponge or coarse sandpaper,' she adds. 'Finish with a deep brown wax for an antique look and feel. Use a wax that's specifically designed to go on top of paint, because everyday furniture wax may strip the paint. I use Frenchic's Browning Wax.'

Frenchic Paint has partnered with mental health charity, Samaritans, to help raise money for their vital, lifesaving services.

A dark backdrop and accessories make paler woodgrain and fabric textures stand out.

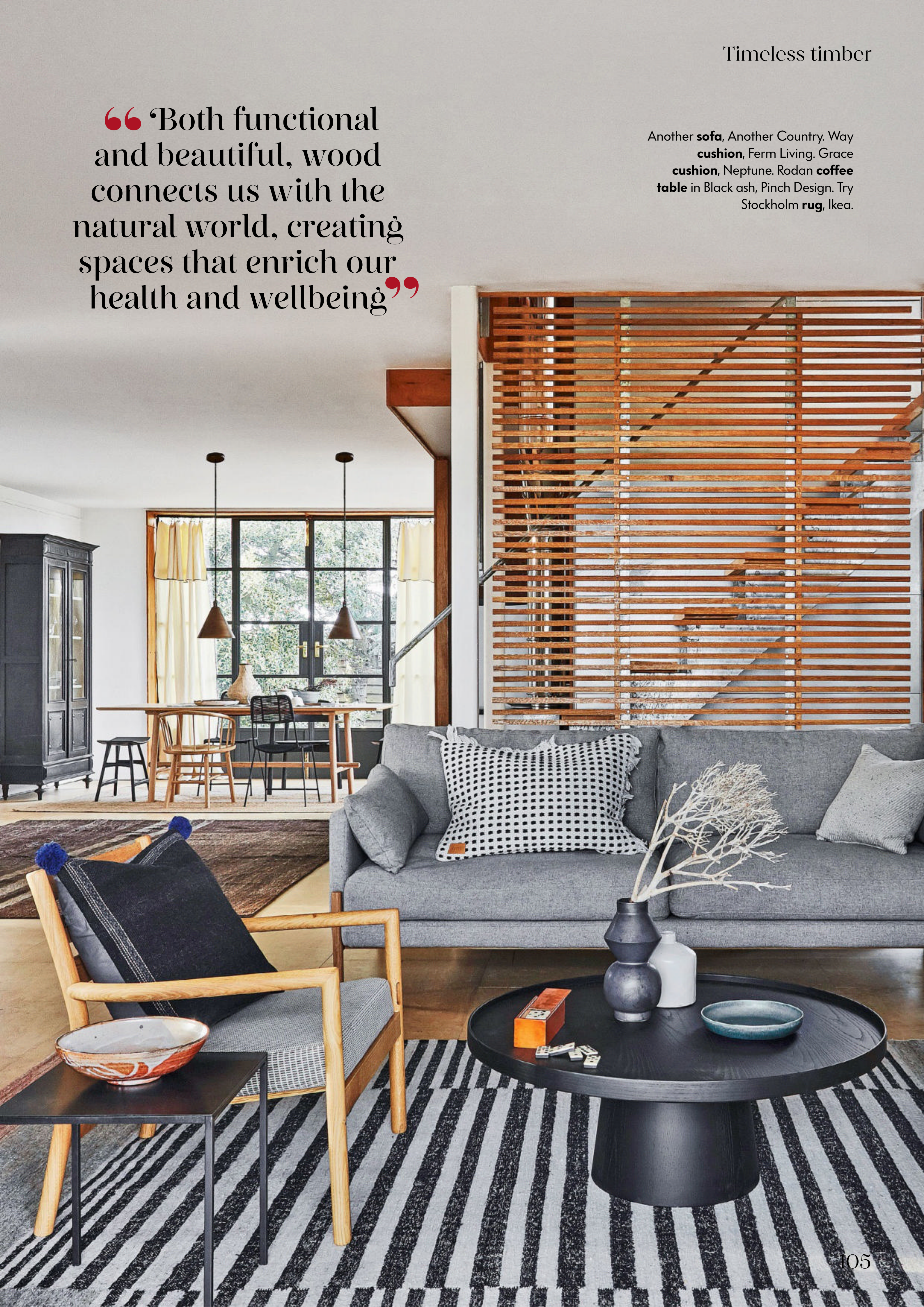
Long Island Blonde **desk**; Sundown wooden **stool**, both French Connection

Timeless timber

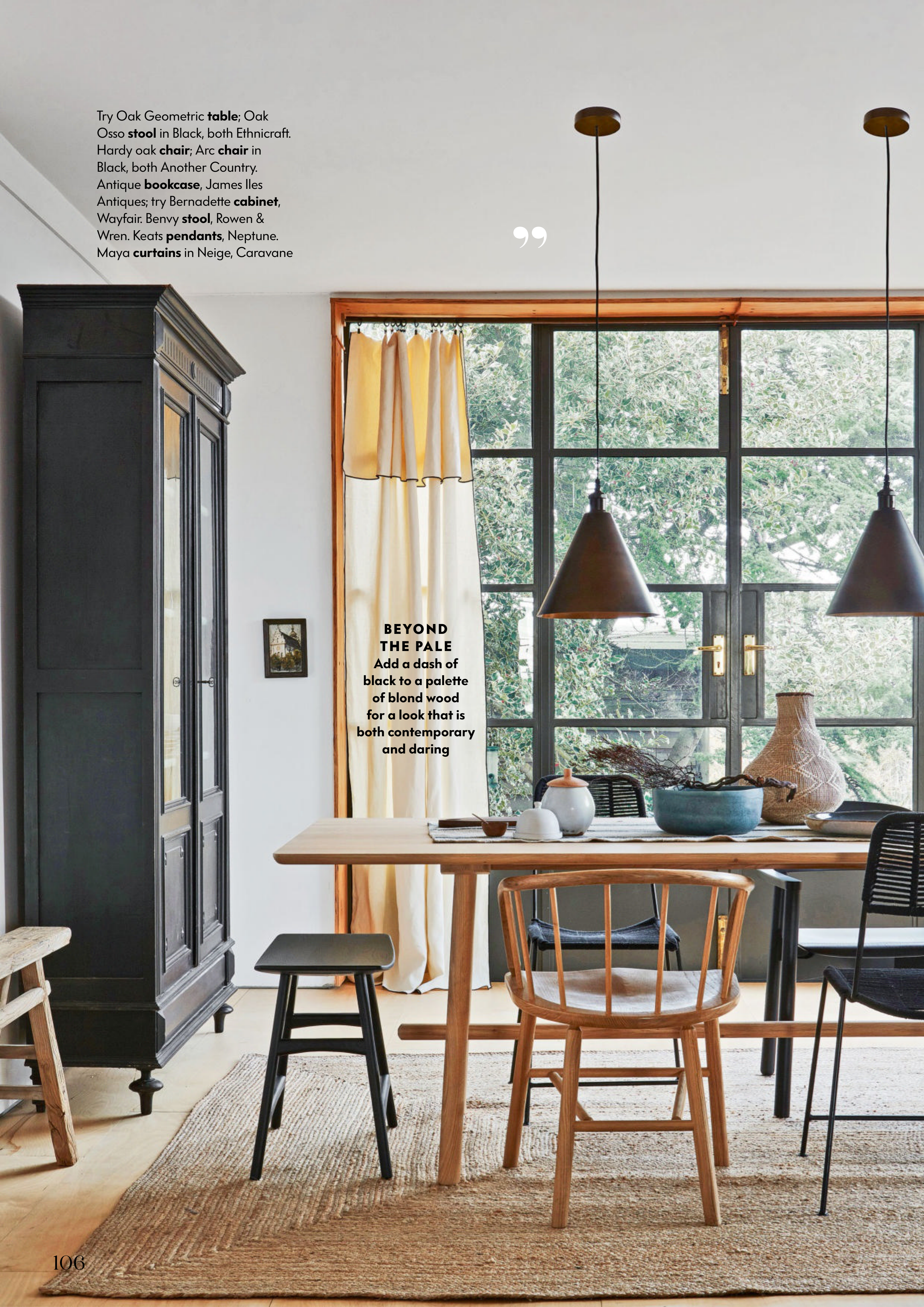
Embrace the natural tones of wood for a touch of ageless American glamour

WORDS NICKY PHILLIP

> “Both functional and beautiful, wood connects us with the natural world, creating spaces that enrich our health and wellbeing”



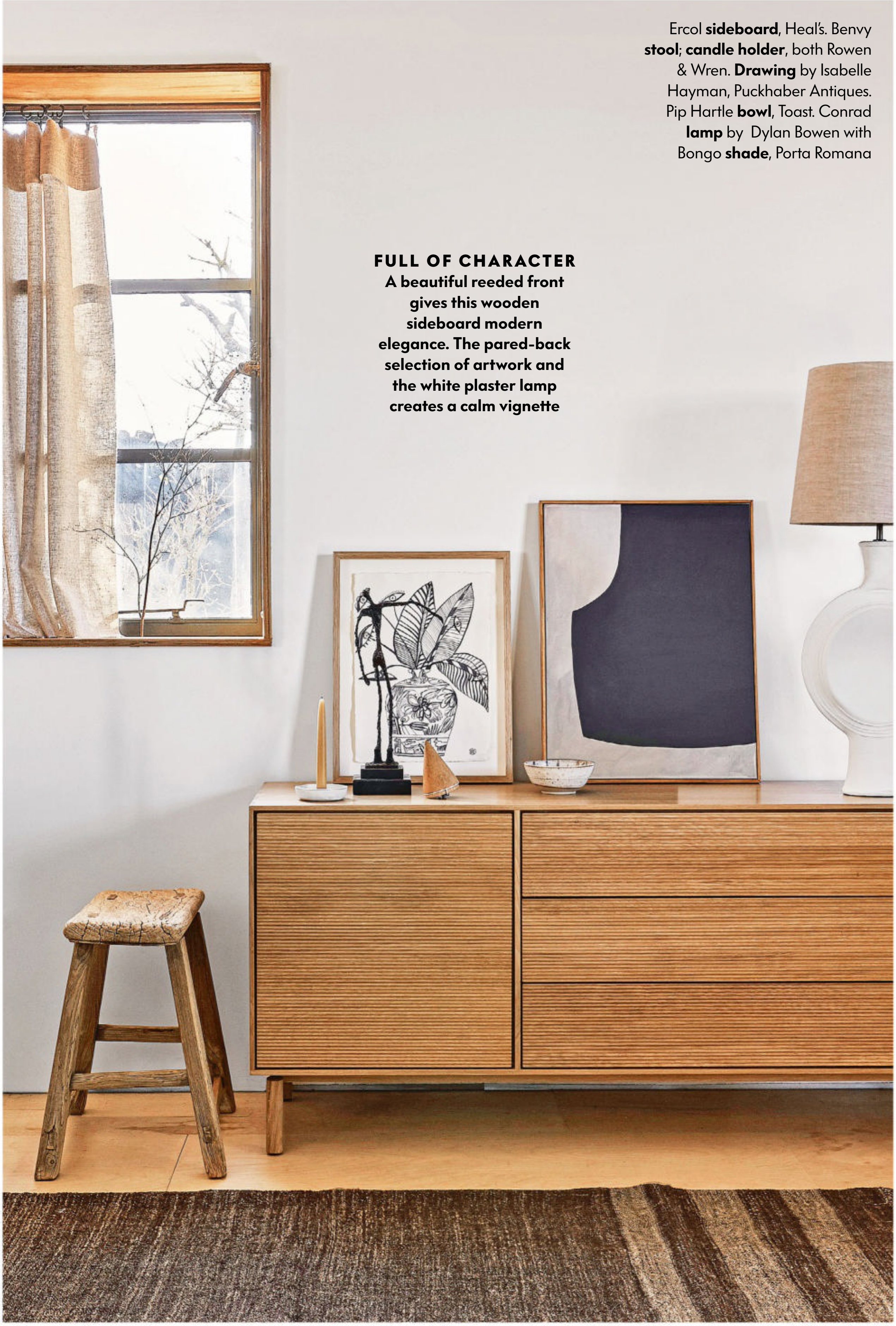
Another **sofa**, Another Country. Way **cushion**, Ferm Living. Grace **cushion**, Neptune. Rodan **coffee table** in Black ash, Pinch Design. Try Stockholm **rug**, Ikea.



Try Oak Geometric **table**; Oak Osso **stool** in Black, both Ethnicraft. Hardy oak **chair**; Arc **chair** in Black, both Another Country. Antique **bookcase**, James Iles Antiques; try Bernadette **cabinet**, Wayfair. Benvy **stool**, Rowen & Wren. Keats **pendants**, Neptune. Maya **curtains** in Neige, Caravane

BEYOND THE PALE

Add a dash of black to a palette of blond wood for a look that is both contemporary and daring



Ercol **sideboard**, Heal's. Benvy **stool**; **candle holder**, both Rowen & Wren. **Drawing** by Isabelle Hayman, Puckhaber Antiques. Pip Hartle **bowl**, Toast. Conrad **lamp** by Dylan Bowen with Bongo **shade**, Porta Romana

FULL OF CHARACTER
A beautiful reeded front gives this wooden sideboard modern elegance. The pared-back selection of artwork and the white plaster lamp creates a calm vignette

Haddon **kitchen** in Charcoal and Burnished Bronze, Birbidge Kitchen Makers

DARK MAGIC
Ebonised timber adds a modern touch and is the perfect backdrop to showcase the idiosyncrasies of other timbers

MIX MODERN WITH VINTAGE

Create an eclectic look by styling wooden furniture with vintage pieces. Try surrounding a salvaged-wood dining table with mid-century chairs, or display wood-turned dishware inside an heirloom cabinet. Mix wood furniture from various eras; the aged appearance ties them together.

USE A VARIETY OF TONES

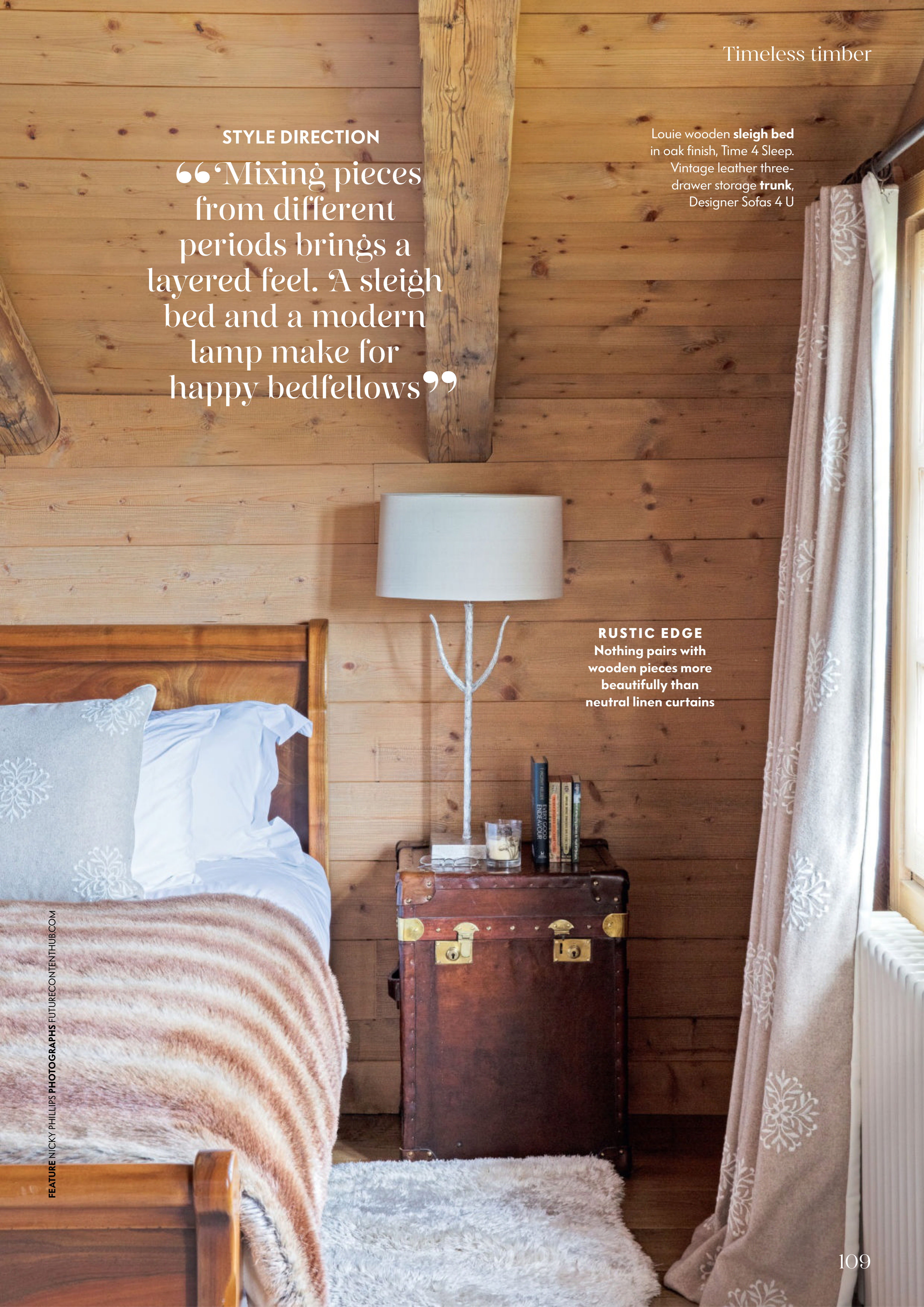
If you're not sure what colour to pair with wood furniture, other timber tones are a safe bet. Wood finishes often have undertones of red, orange, grey, or dark brown, so choose additional pieces that have a similar tinge. Tie the scheme together with neutral paint colours and natural materials.

PAIR WITH PAINTED PIECES

Decorating a bedroom with dark-wood furniture requires careful mixing, especially if you're using finishes such as cherry or walnut. Too many wood pieces can give the space a heavy, overcrowded feel. So balance the look and dilute the timber overload by choosing to paint one or two pieces of furniture.

USE PIECES IN NEW WAYS

Think beyond an item's original purpose to find unique ways to use wooden furniture. A Georgian side table makes for a beautiful night stand, while an old linen press can stand in as a dresser in the kitchen, or as storage and display for crockery and glassware in the dining room.



STYLE DIRECTION

> “Mixing pieces from different periods brings a layered feel. A sleigh bed and a modern lamp make for happy bedfellows”

Louie wooden **sleigh bed** in oak finish, Time 4 Sleep. Vintage leather three-drawer storage **trunk**, Designer Sofas 4 U

RUSTIC EDGE
Nothing pairs with wooden pieces more beautifully than neutral linen curtains

FEATURE NICKY PHILLIPS **PHOTOGRAPHS** FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

Going coastal

Inspired by the art of Texas and the laid-back vibe of the east coast in the US, John and Anna Carver turned a bland bungalow into a unique beach home

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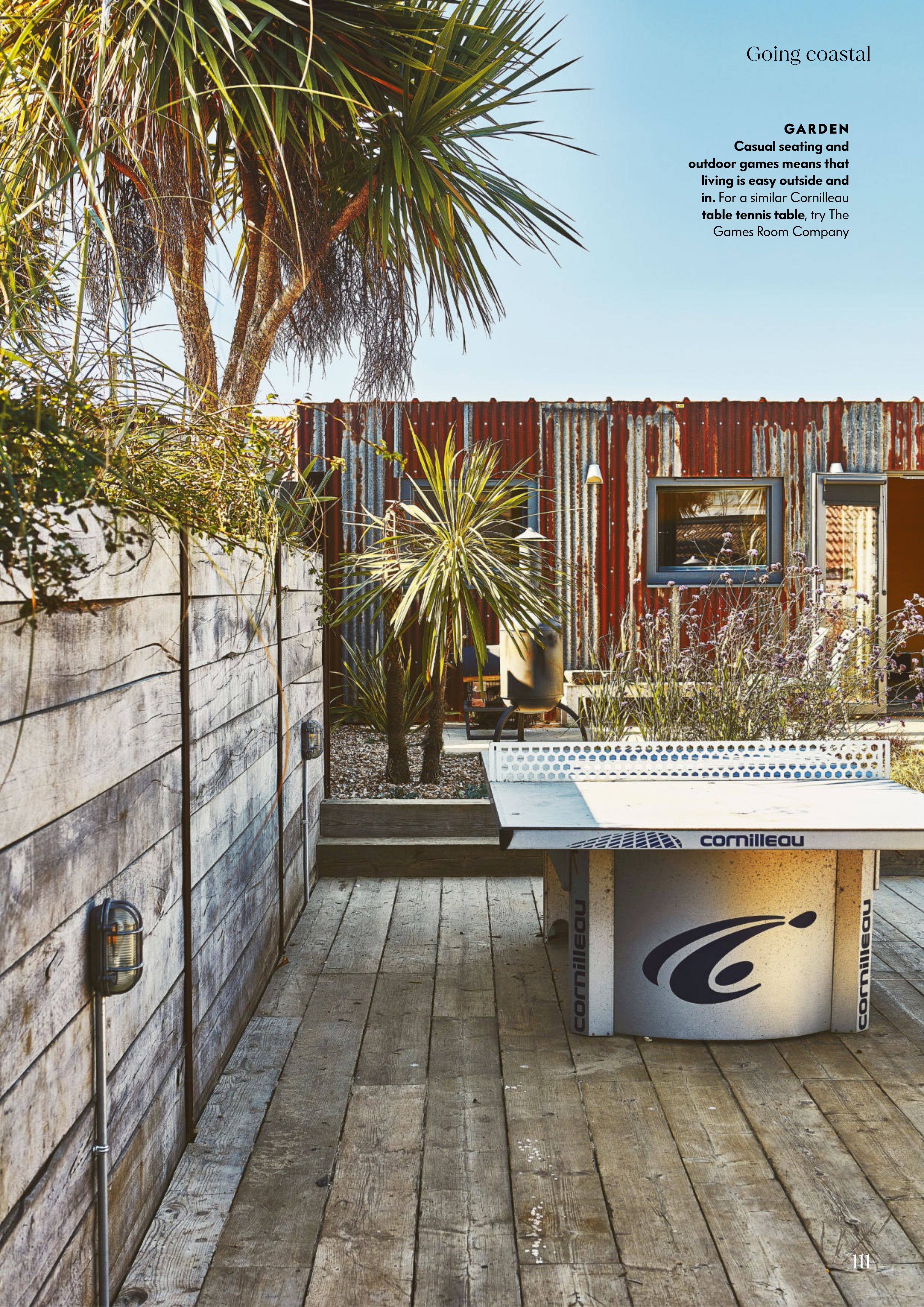
WORDS ALISON JONES **PHOTOGRAPHY** MALCOLM MENZIES



GARDEN
Casual seating and outdoor games means that living is easy outside and in. For a similar Cornilleau **table tennis table**, try The Games Room Company

PROFILE

THE OWNERS
John Carver, a creator, his wife, Anna, and their children Minnie, Finlay and Bodie

THE PROPERTY
A two-bedroom beachside home near Camber Sands, East Sussex

Travel broadens the mind, and with it, our taste in design. Who hasn't come back from a holiday and brought a little of it back with them? It might be a souvenir, or the inspiration for a makeover to try and recapture that feeling of blissful relaxation we've enjoyed for a week or two. John and Anna Carver have become skilled at reinventing the most ordinary buildings and turning them into homes with roots in the American coast or its artistic communities. For this project, they took a 1970s bungalow and transformed it into a beach home where vintage water skis hang from the walls and no one worries about walking sand back from the beach. John reveals how they created an escape so authentic that American visitors regard it as a home away from home.

As locations go, this house is perfectly positioned for the beach. How did you come across it?
We were looking for something to develop as a holiday home to rent out in Camber, near Rye. It was never on the market – we just heard about it and bought it from the lady who owned it. It's on the only pedestrian road in Camber and is literally 100 metres from the beach with no cars driving up and down outside. If you have kids and you want to open the door and let them run around, there's only a small road to the car park to cross before they're at the beach, so it's very convenient.

The bungalow wasn't much to look at when you bought it. The change is quite amazing.
It was a tired, late 1970s/early 1980s brick-built bungalow typical of the area, with lots of little rooms. We have extended it a little – we pushed out to the side, which gave us an extra few feet either side of the original property. We still have two bedrooms, the same as before, but the space has all been opened up and it has a mezzanine. It wasn't like that before. There was a kitchen, a bathroom and a sitting area– all that is now open plan. And there's a new studio that is a chill out and entertainment space.

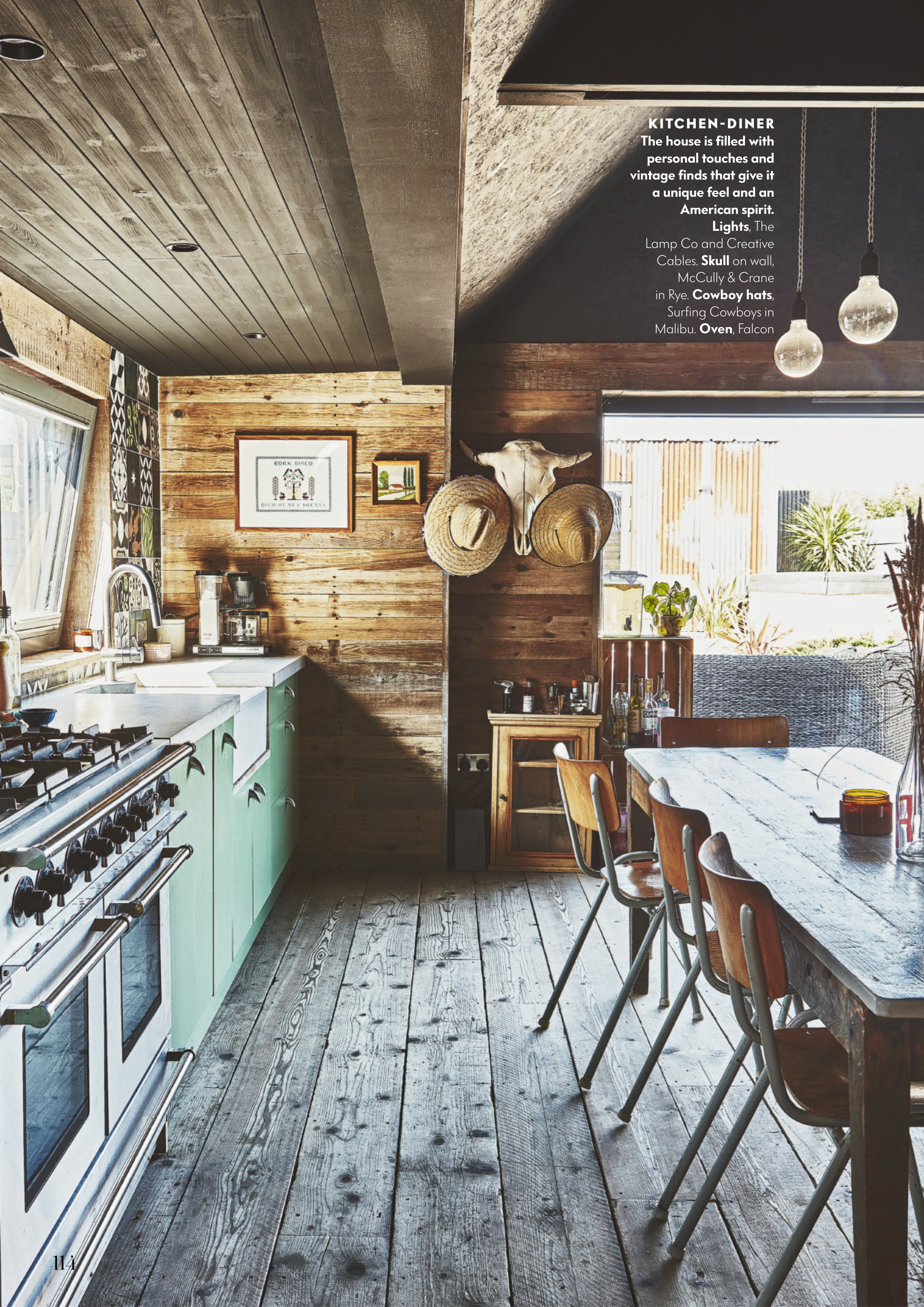
I've never seen anything like the interior, at least not in the UK. Who or where were you inspired by?
My wife and I, that's kind of our stamp. We operate under the name Carver & Carver. Various people ask us to do projects, and we do our own. The two towns we reference are Montauk in New York and Marfa, which is in Texas. Marfa is a town devoted to artists, specifically a minimalist artist called Donald Judd. We've been out there a few times, and similarly to Montauk. The whole funky laid-back surf style is something we are in favour of and is what we normally have a vision for the houses we do. We like to give them a look that's quite contemporary, but try not to be too obvious about it.

How did you get your start on these creative house transformations?
I did study architecture, though I didn't qualify as one – I wasn't patient enough! Now we kind of see houses and reinvent them. We used to live in Primrose Hill but we wanted a house near the sea. We found a modernist bungalow in a place called Peasmarsh, opposite Sir Paul McCartney's home, and spent a year or so developing that. We ended up moving there and just going back to Primrose Hill at weekends.

The cottage has a very welcoming, lived-in feel, I think from the use of recycled materials. Is sustainability important to you?
Yes, very. Pretty much everything in there is recycled. The cladding on the walls is potato crates! It's quite hard to get a lot of cladding that all looks the same – normally, you get little batches of it. We have second-hand scaffold board floorboards and all the decking outside is used scaffold board. We don't like homes where someone says "take your shoes off". We wanted the feeling that you can just wander in off the beach and not feel uncomfortable. People can come in covered in mud or sand and just brush it away or hoover it up. It's about being relaxed rather than being precious. The studio in the garden is clad in rusty corrugated iron that I bought from a farmer. The building is brand new and beautifully built, but the cladding on the outside makes it look like it's been there for years and years.

Did it take you long to get it how you wanted it?
We bought it at the end of 2018 and it took about 15-18 months in total. We were very specific and quite fussy so it took a long time. We got a really good building company who did all the work; they were fantastic. They've done a few things for us in the past – they like doing quirky stuff. We've used stuff from all over the world to decorate it. We curate the art. I do photography and I work with an artist, and some of the artwork is stuff that we've done together.

Do you get many opportunities to enjoy the cottage now work is complete?
We had the family down there last summer – we love it. Any gaps between rentals we go down because it's such a fantastic space. It's a sun trap – the sun is on the garden all day. And the whole open-plan living area is a really cool space and very relaxed. We had a couple from the USA renting it from last September because they think of it as the equivalent of Montauk in England. They're into kite surfing and the beach is minutes away. They're going to be renting it again after summer. They love the quirky, eclectic style and the fact we mix everything up rather than just having a beige finish.


BORN DISCO
DIED HEAVY METAL

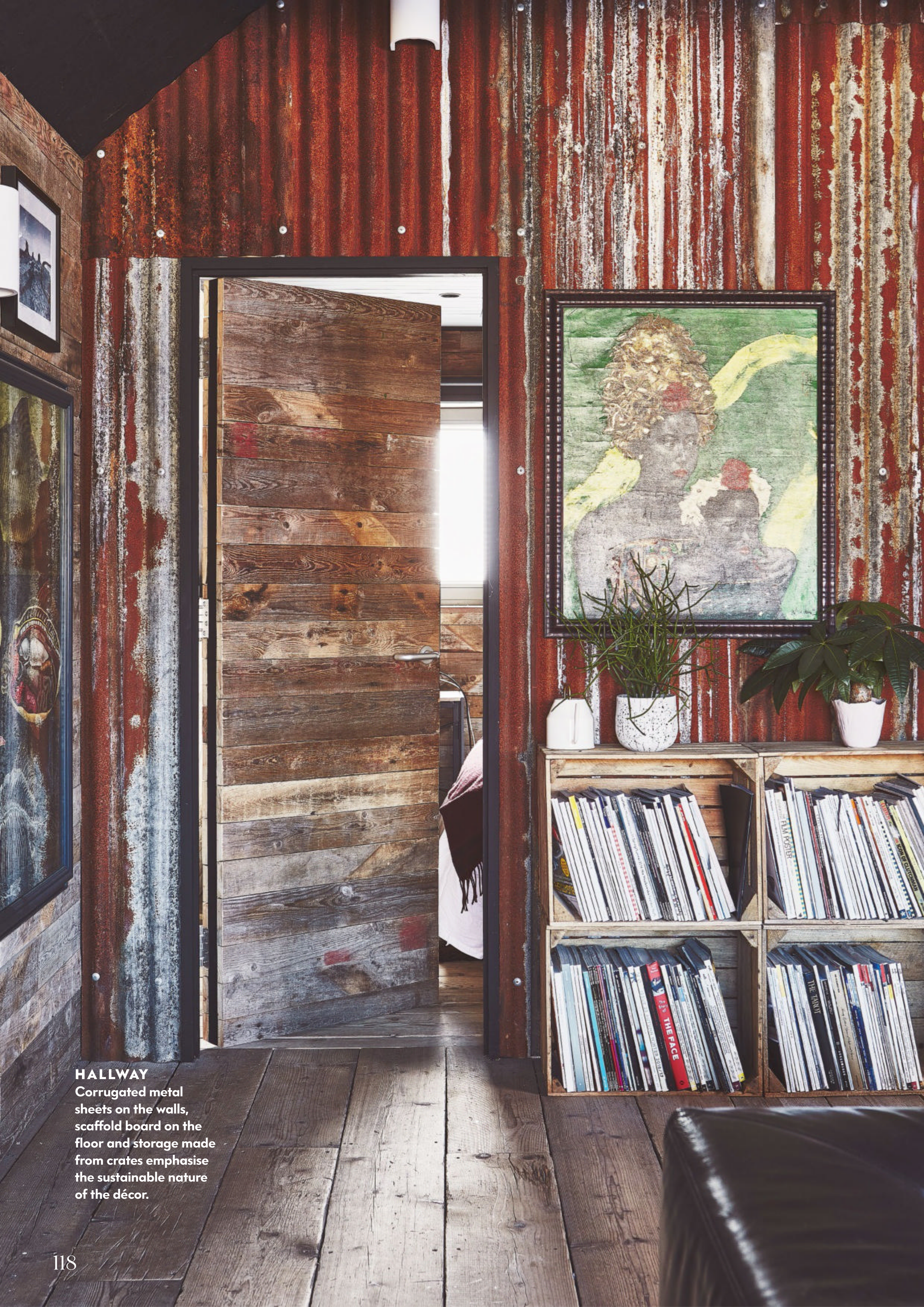
KITCHEN-DINER
The house is filled with personal touches and vintage finds that give it a unique feel and an American spirit. **Lights**, The Lamp Co and Creative Cables. **Skull** on wall, McCully & Crane in Rye. **Cowboy hats**, Surfing Cowboys in Malibu. **Oven**, Falcon

KITCHEN
All of the fixtures and fittings feel like they have a story to tell of where they were found.

Wall tiles, Emery & Cie in Brussels. Industrial **school chairs**, a flea market in Paris. French **dining table,** Sideshow Interiors of St Leonard's

WORDS **ALISON JONES** PHOTOGRAPHS **MALCOLM MENZIES**

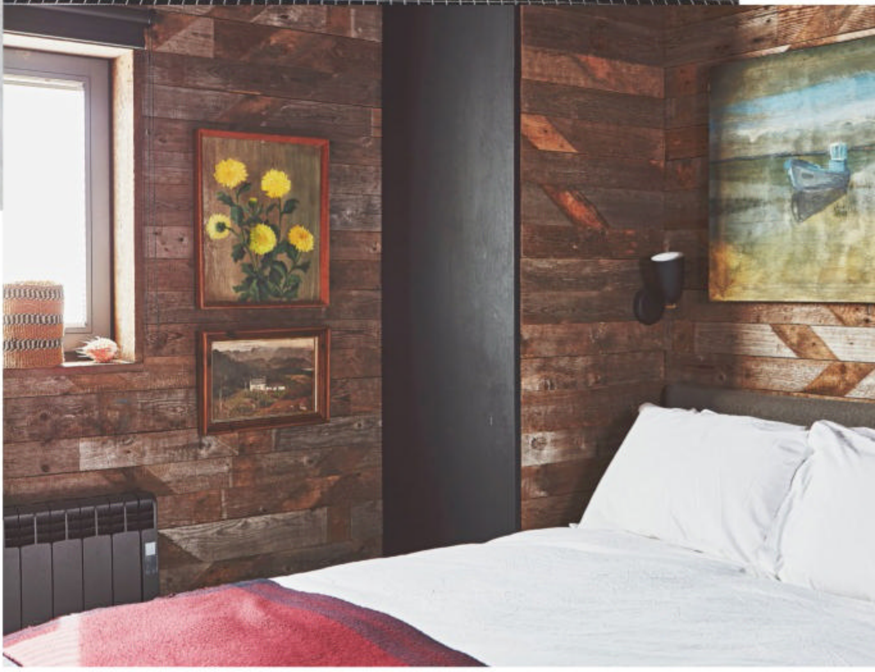
OPEN-PLAN LIVING SPACE
Vintage waterskis hang from the wall as a tribute to Montauk on the east coast of America – a surfing hot spot.
Habitat leather L-shaped **sofa** from Ooh La La strip club in Soho. For a similar **sideboard,** try Vinterior. Vintage **Barracuda,** Ripitup in Montauk. **Carp illustration,** Sideshow Interiors of St Leonard's


FILM POSTER
THE FACE
THE TAROT

HALLWAY
Corrugated metal sheets on the walls, scaffold board on the floor and storage made from crates emphasise the sustainable nature of the décor.

BATHROOM & BEDROOM
The texture of the shower tiles and the wooden walls in the bedroom offer a raw, natural look and tactile feel.

Zelliges **shower tiles**, Cement Tile Shop. **Chrome fittings**, Crosswater. **Shower Mirror**, Croydex Simpson. **Painting** above bed, McCully & Crane in Rye. **Paintings** on wall, from a flea market in Oslo, Norway

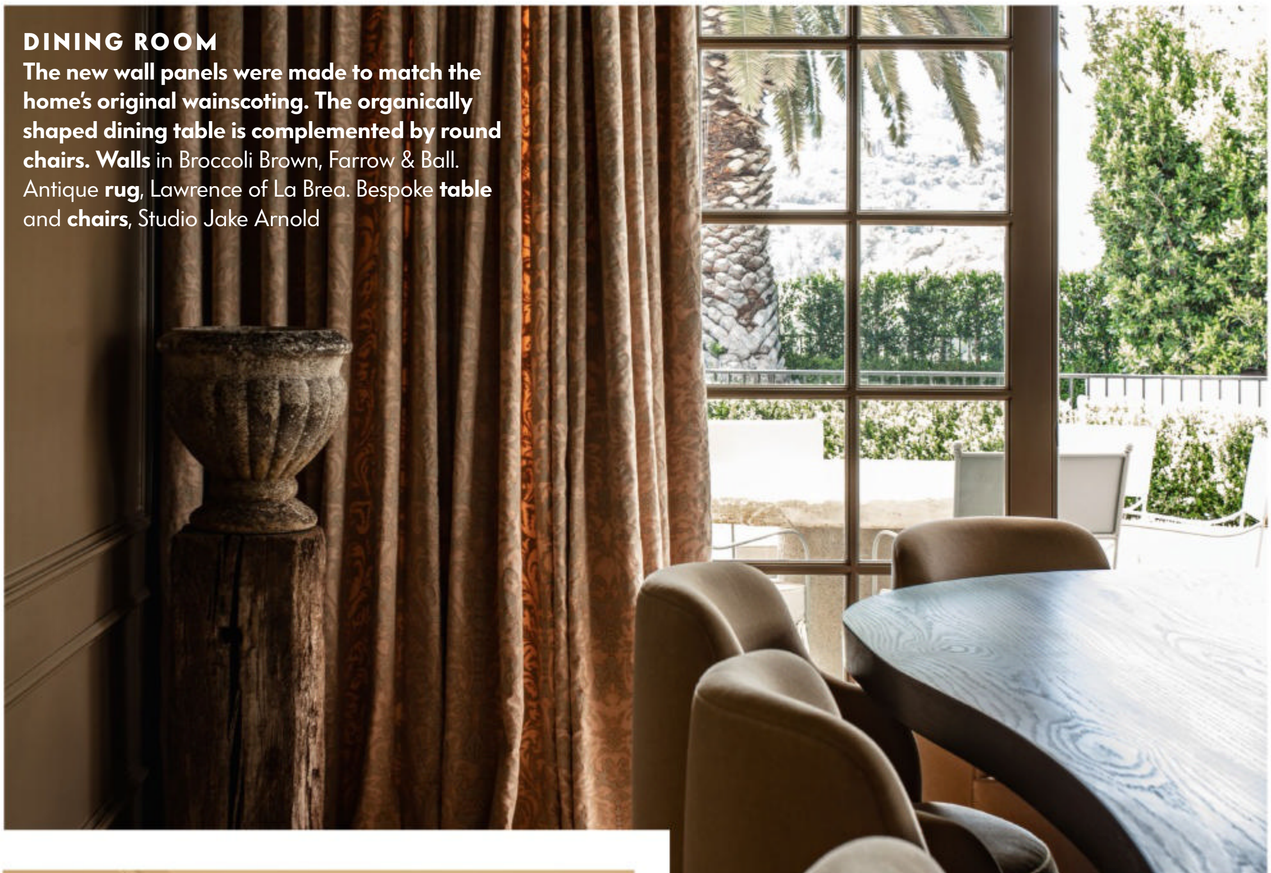


SITTING ROOM
A natural wood piano has pride of place in the main entertaining area. **Piano**, Hollywood Piano. *Moonwalk* **artwork** by Andy Warhol. 1940s Gino Sarfatti **wall lamp** for Arteluce. Linen **rug**, Woven Accents

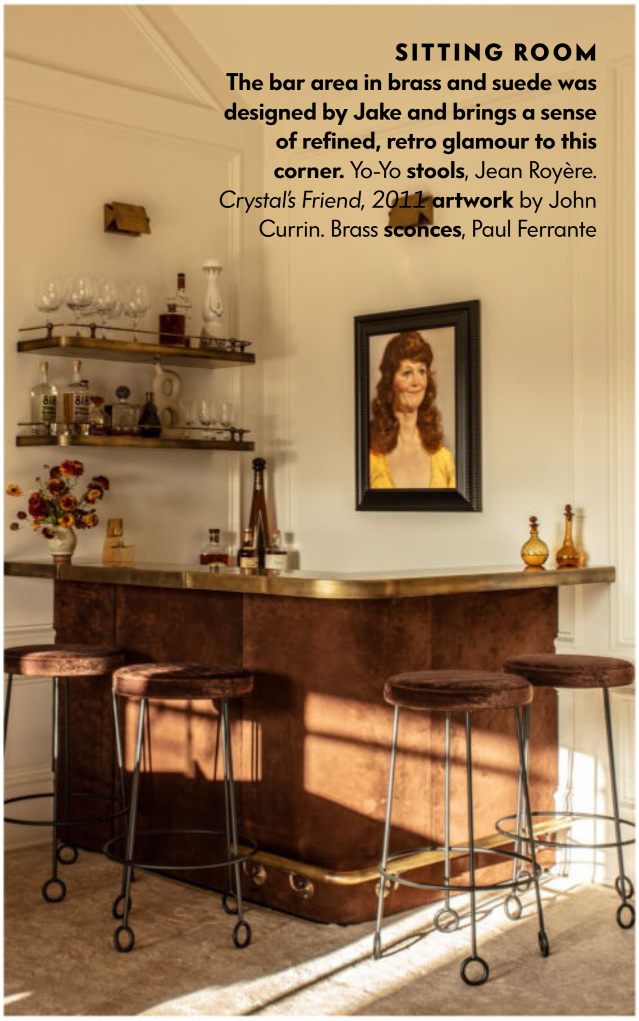
A modest proposal

Designer Jake Arnold has made quiet luxury an art form and here his ability to produce subtle yet standout schemes shines

WORDS ALI HEATH **PHOTOGRAPHY** MICHAEL P H CLIFFORD



DINING ROOM
The new wall panels were made to match the home's original wainscoting. The organically shaped dining table is complemented by round chairs. Walls in Broccoli Brown, Farrow & Ball. Antique **rug**, Lawrence of La Brea. Bespoke **table** and **chairs**, Studio Jake Arnold



SITTING ROOM
The bar area in brass and suede was designed by Jake and brings a sense of refined, retro glamour to this corner. Yo-Yo **stools**, Jean Royère. *Crystal's Friend, 2011* **artwork** by John Currin. Brass **sconces**, Paul Ferrante

KITCHEN DINING AREA
A vintage trestle table is paired with mid-century rattan and wood chairs by Charlotte Perriand. Enamel **pendant**, Lisa Johansson-Pape. **Pendants** (over the island), Rose Uniacke

Jake Arnold's book, *Redefining Comfort*, is the culmination of his symbiotic journey into interior design – pursuing his dream, reimagining industry norms, losing his fear, building client trust and feeling validated. Jake studied business and economics at Nottingham University, as an antidote to concerns that following his love of interior design was not a real career choice. The years up to his early twenties were shrouded in self-doubt until he realised focusing on his passion was the only way to live.

Securing an internship with an LA-based interior design company, Jake arrived in America with no established business contacts or friends, and barely enough money to last a few months – but also with no preconceived ideas to hold him back. Fast forward 11 years, and Jake runs his renowned design studio from LA, along with The Expert – a video consultation service that he jointly founded, connecting people to global interior designers. 'I wanted to give back and eliminate the barriers of high-budget, full-service commitment – offering everyone access to expert, industry knowledge and encouraging both established and new design talent,' he says.

Redefining Comfort charts Jake's inspiring rise to success and this project, named 'Optimism', showcases his design take on a one-storey, mid-century Californian ranch by architect Gerard Colcord. 'Colcord's projects became synonymous in the 1950s with the fulfilment of the American dream – homes that balanced the importance of work and family. In turn, this project has become a cornerstone of my work, using optimism and hopefulness as a central foundation for design.'

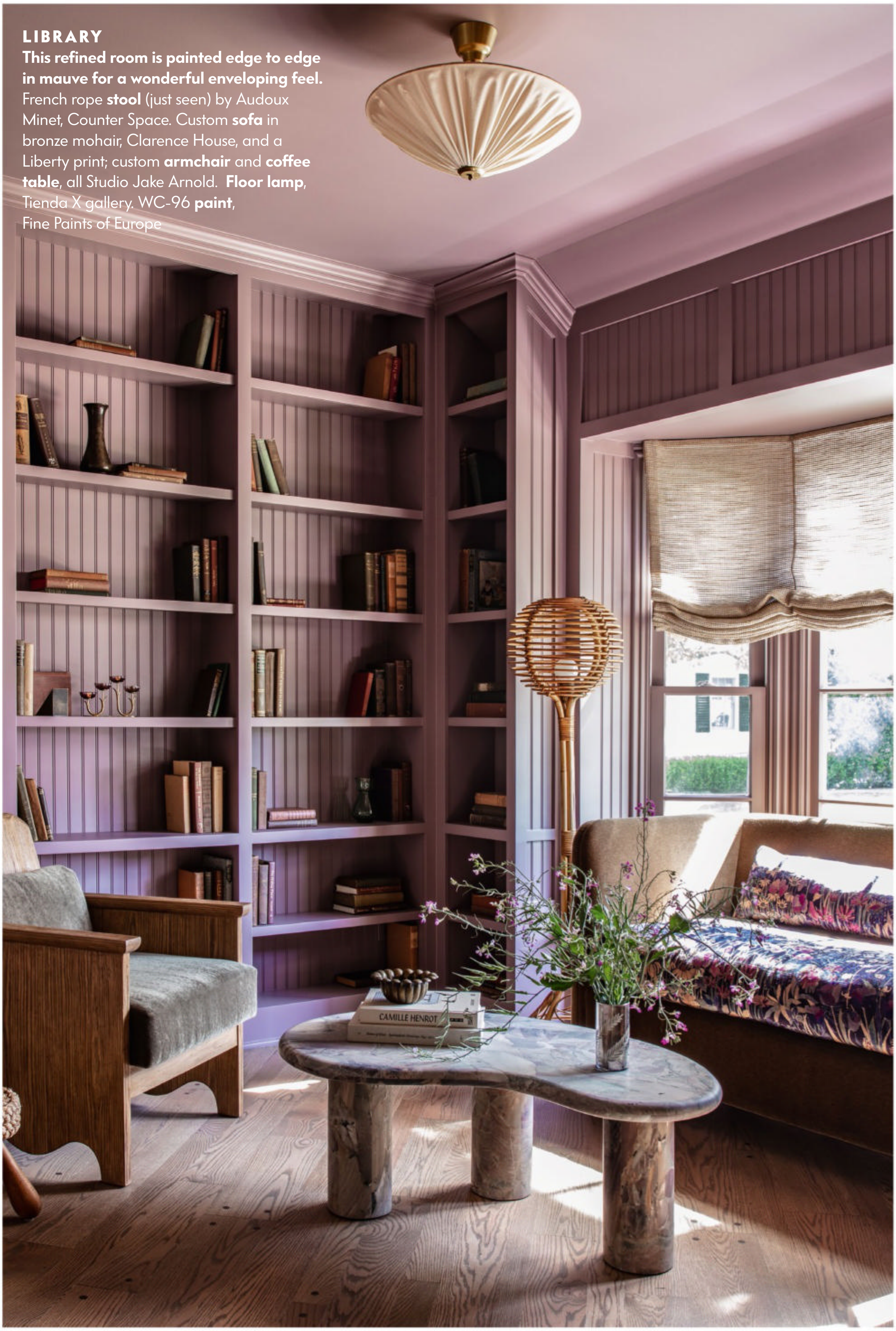
Keen to find a home 'with soul' – Jake was entrusted by his clients to help them find this property. He was drawn to Colcord's classic architectural design features: colonnaded porches, vast panelled windows and lofty pitched roofs. The house is in Beverly Hills and has expansive canyon views, and Jake stripped the recent, unsympathetic interior back to its bare bones, refurbishing original wooden floors, reinstating panelling and slowly rebuilding the decorative layers. His approach to colour was driven by the clients' love of neutrals, whilst encouraging bolder, tonal hues that reference the surrounding landscape.

The use of historical prints on furnishings, from the likes of Fortuny, Liberty, Ralph Lauren and Schumacher, adds a timeless gravitas, balanced with textural plains from de Le Cuona, Holland & Sherry and Pierre Frey. Throughout, old, new and custom-made is thoughtfully curated. 'It's what sets a project apart – and taking the time to explore and unearth new European and international treasures is high on my future agenda.' Rooms are zoned creatively to optimise flow, and to amplify opportunities for entertaining and comfort. The use of curved, bespoke furniture creates a gentle fluidity and intimacy, and offsets more linear edges on panelling, bookcases and angular roof lines.

Natural materials add soul and a quiet sense of luxury to the home – think a custom-made bar in brass and suede, antique rugs, vintage oak and sheepskin chairs, primitive wooden tables, Audoux Minet vintage lights and Brèche de Vendôme stone flooring. 'For me, great design is about staying grounded and expressing your creativity,' says Jake. 'No matter how large or small, it should always be a place that makes you feel good. Physical beauty can be bought, but living well is a choice.'

■ jakearnold.com

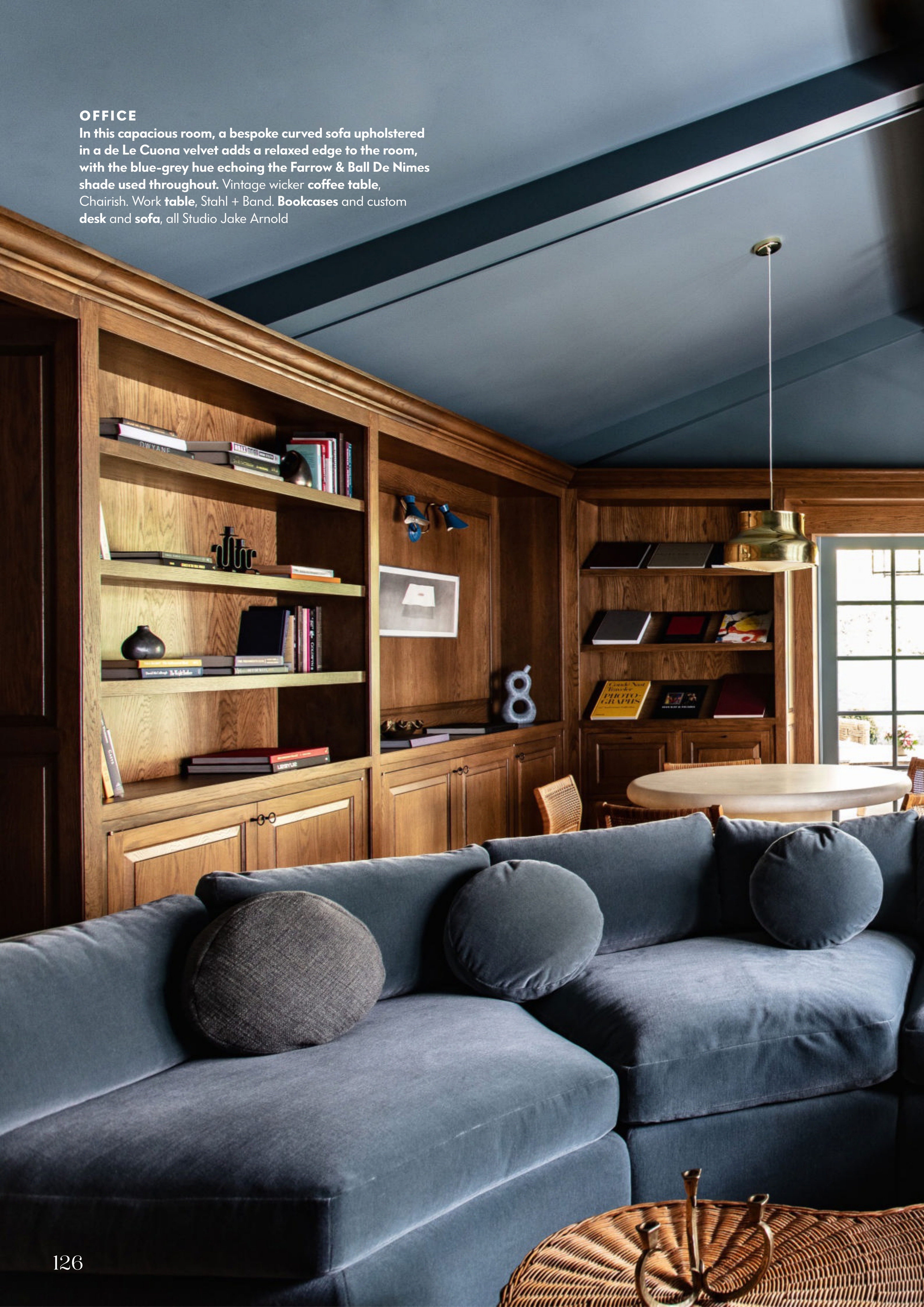
> “ 'Natural materials add soul and a quiet sense of luxury to the home – think a custom-made bar in brass and suede, antique rugs, vintage oak and sheepskin chairs, primitive wooden tables ”



LIBRARY

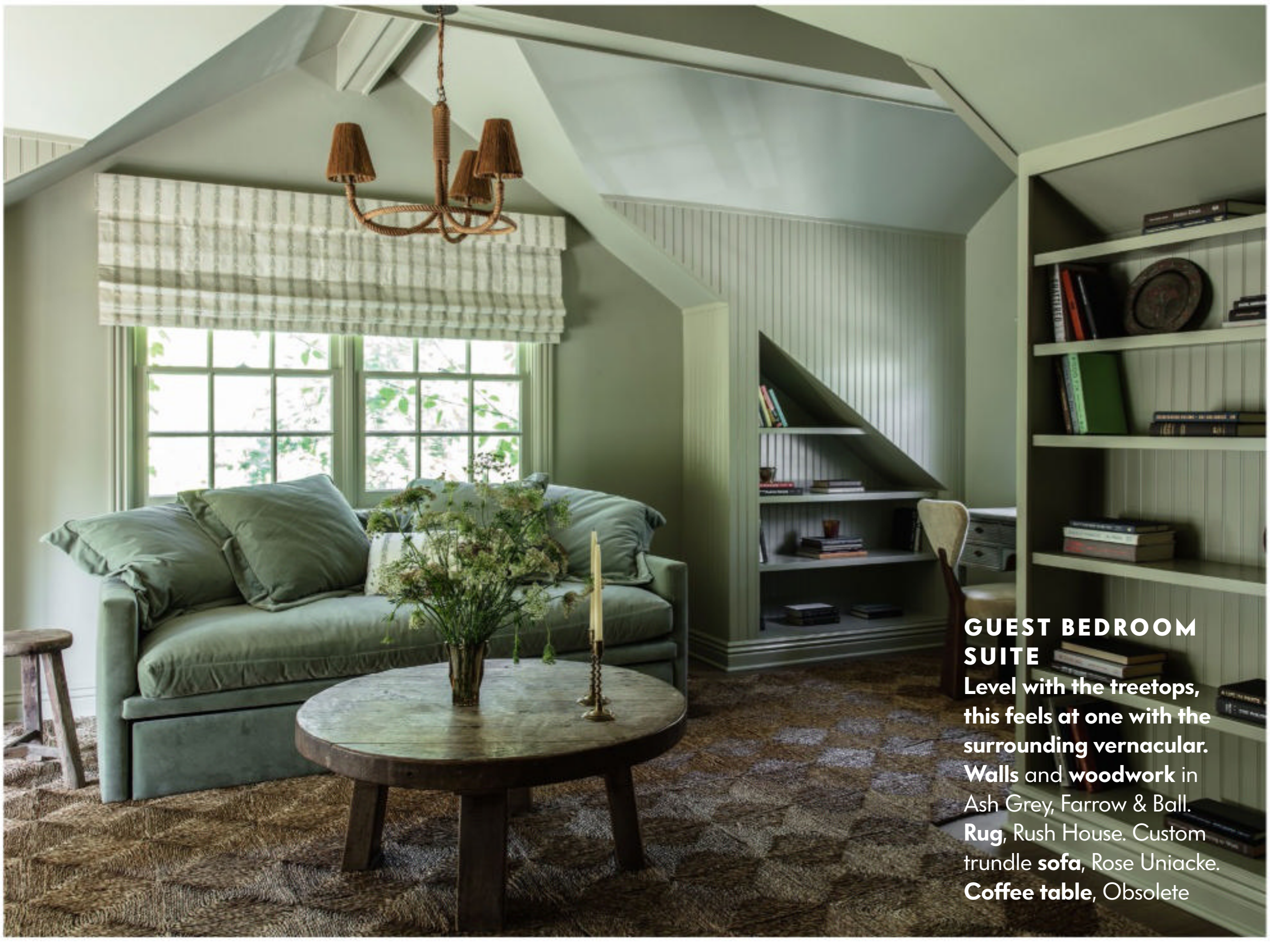
This refined room is painted edge to edge in mauve for a wonderful enveloping feel. French rope **stool** (just seen) by Audoux Minet, Counter Space. Custom **sofa** in bronze mohair, Clarence House, and a Liberty print; custom **armchair** and **coffee table**, all Studio Jake Arnold. **Floor lamp**, Tienda X gallery. WC-96 **paint**, Fine Paints of Europe

BREAKFAST NOOK
The curved corner banquette is another piece designed by Jake. Custom **dining table**, Studio Jake Arnold. Vintage **oil painting** and antique oak and sheepskin **chairs**, Galerie Half. Vintage 1940s Finnish wicker **lamp** by Lasipaino Oy, 1stDibs

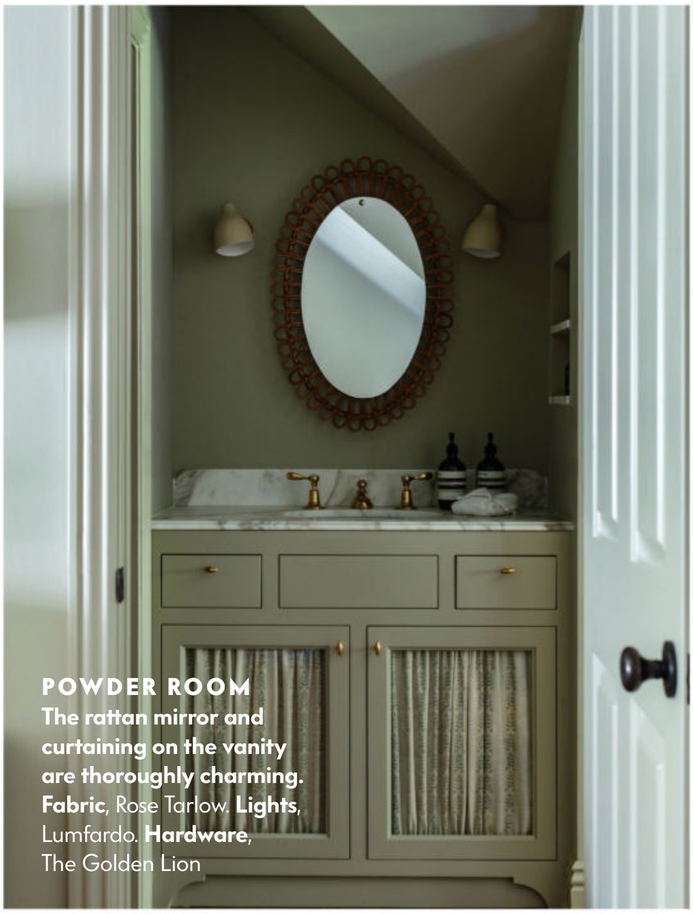


OFFICE

In this capacious room, a bespoke curved sofa upholstered in a de Le Cuona velvet adds a relaxed edge to the room, with the blue-grey hue echoing the Farrow & Ball De Nimes shade used throughout. Vintage wicker **coffee table**, Chairish. Work **table**, Stahl + Band. **Bookcases** and custom **desk** and **sofa**, all Studio Jake Arnold



GUEST BEDROOM SUITE
Level with the treetops, this feels at one with the surrounding vernacular. Walls and **woodwork** in Ash Grey, Farrow & Ball. **Rug**, Rush House. Custom trundle **sofa**, Rose Uniacke. **Coffee table**, Obsolete



POWDER ROOM
The rattan mirror and curtaining on the vanity are thoroughly charming. Fabric, Rose Tarlow. **Lights**, Lumfardo. **Hardware**, The Golden Lion

Q&A Jake Arnold

The designer shares his style inspiration

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS Liveable, impactful, thoughtful.

GO-TO COLOUR Brown.

GREATEST INDULGENCE In this project, the custom bar built in brass and suede – it is the jewel of the sitting room.

BIGGEST SUCCESS Attending the first party after the redesign of this home and seeing first-hand how amazing the house was in action.

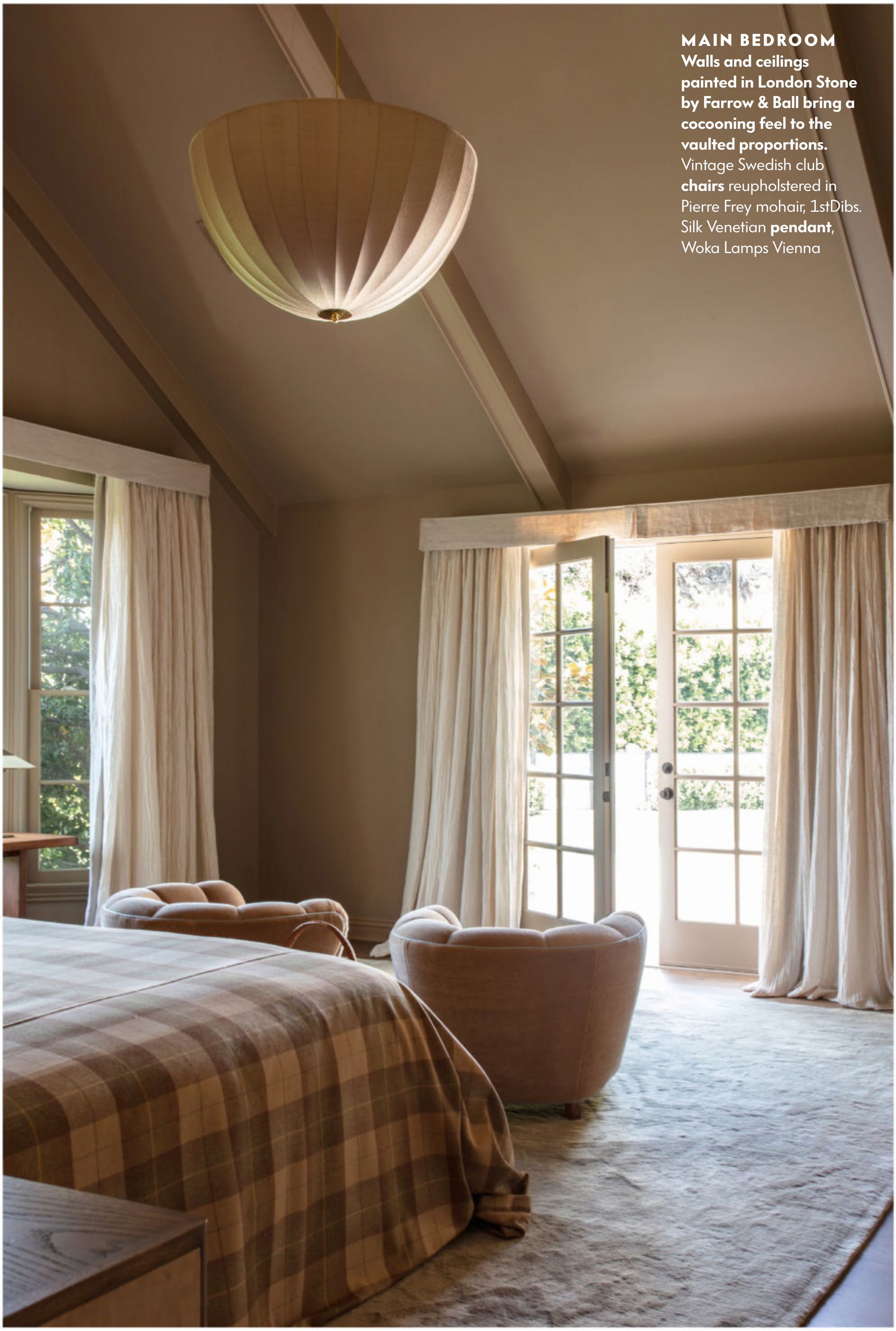
FAVOURITE BUILDING Claridge's hotel in London. I love its sense of history and style, but also the evolution of the space over time.

LAST ITEM YOU BOUGHT FOR THIS PROJECT An Italian antique lamp for the entrance console.

DESIGN INSPIRATION For me it is 1930s-1940s France.

DESIGN HERO Jacques Grange.

SECRET ADDRESS The Paris flea market – Le Marché aux Puces de Paris Saint-Ouen.



MAIN BEDROOM
Walls and ceilings painted in London Stone by Farrow & Ball bring a cocooning feel to the vaulted proportions. Vintage Swedish club **chairs** reupholstered in Pierre Frey mohair, 1stDibs. Silk Venetian **pendant**, Woka Lamps Vienna

AMERICAN HOME STYLE HANDBOOK

Future PLC Quay House, The Ambury, Bath, BA1 1UA

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Photography
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Printed in the UK

Distributed by Marketforce – www.marketforce.co.uk
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The American Home Style Handbook (HOB7027)
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Future plc is a public
company quoted on the
London Stock Exchange
(symbol: FUTR)
www.futureplc.com

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